

Centres of Population.—The “centre of population”* for the Dominion of Canada has been carefully worked out for each census from 1851-1931 inclusive and shows a definite north-westward movement up to 1911, westward for the next decade and northward for 1931. For the censuses 1851 to 1881 the location was near Valleyfield, Que.; in 1891, it was 25 miles west of Ottawa; in 1901, near Pembroke; in 1911, 45 miles west of Sudbury; in 1921, 50 miles north-east of Sault Ste. Marie; and in 1931, 35 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie.

Density of Population.—The density of population in 1931 (*i.e.*, the number of persons per square mile of the land area as in that year), as compared with 1921, 1911 and 1901 is shown by provinces and for the country as a whole in Table 6, and by counties or census divisions in Table 7. Generally speaking the density of population decreases as one travels westward, but the enormous area of the province of Quebec unduly reduces the density of its population, which was 5.49 in 1931. As among the nine provinces, the density of population is greatest in Prince Edward Island and least in British Columbia.

6.—Area and Density of Population of Canada, by Provinces, 1901-31.

Province.	Land Area in sq. miles.	Population, 1901. ¹		Population, 1911.		Population, 1921.		Population, 1931.	
		Total.	Per sq. mile.	Total.	Per sq. mile.	Total.	Per sq. mile.	Total.	Per sq. mile.
P. E. Island.....	2,184	103,259	47.28	93,728	42.92	88,615	40.57	88,038	40.31
Nova Scotia.....	20,743	459,574	22.16	492,338	23.74	523,837	25.25	512,846	24.72
New Brunswick..	27,710	331,120	11.95	351,889	12.70	387,876	14.00	408,219	14.73
Quebec.....	523,534	1,648,898	3.15	2,005,776	3.83	2,360,665 ²	4.51	2,874,255	5.49
Ontario.....	363,282	2,182,947	6.01	2,527,292	6.96	2,933,662	8.08	3,431,683	9.45
Manitoba.....	219,723	255,211	1.16	461,394	2.10	610,118	2.78	700,139	3.19
Saskatchewan....	237,975	91,279	0.38	492,432	2.07	757,510	3.18	921,785	3.87
Alberta.....	248,800	73,022	0.29	374,295	1.50	588,454	2.37	731,605	2.94
British Columbia.	359,279	178,657	0.50	392,480	1.09	524,582	1.46	694,263	1.93
Canada (Exclusive of the Territories).....	2,003,230	5,323,967	2.66	7,191,624	3.59	8,775,319	4.38	10,362,833	5.17
Yukon.....	205,346	27,219	0.13	8,512	0.04	4,157	0.02	4,230	0.02
N.W.T.....	1,258,217	20,129	0.02	6,507	0.01	7,988	0.01	9,723	0.01
R. C. Navy.....	—	—	—	—	—	485	—	—	—
Canada.....	3,466,793	5,371,315	1.55	7,206,643	2.08	8,787,949²	2.53	10,376,786	2.99

¹The populations of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Northwest Territories in 1901 are not adjusted according to the provisions of the Boundary Extensions Act, 1912.

²Populations of Northwest River Arm and Rigolet, on Hamilton inlet, as in 1921, have been deducted from Quebec, as these parts were awarded to Newfoundland by decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mar. 1, 1927.

Elements of Growth.—The former lack of comprehensive and comparable vital statistics for the whole of Canada, together with the lack of statistics of emigration, makes it difficult to determine how far the growth of population since the

*The centres of population are the centres of gravity (not the intersection of median lines). The units of area in which the moments (*i.e.*, population multiplied by distance from a fixed point) were calculated were the permanent counties or census divisions, of which there are about 220, the same units being used so far as possible for all censuses from 1851 to 1931. The geographical centre of the unit area was assumed to be the centre of population of that unit except in the cases of the thinly settled northern areas of the counties with very large cities, where special adjustments were made.