

Finally an Act was passed on Aug. 30, 1851, providing for a census to be taken in January, 1852, then in the year 1861 and thereafter every tenth year, and that better provision should be made for taking the census. The first census thereunder was taken in January, 1852, and, as similar censuses were taken by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, we have a regular measure of population growth in Canada over the past 80 years. The 'fifties saw a very rapid development, especially in Ontario, whilst the 'sixties showed only less substantial gains. In the years following Confederation there was a spurt, the increase between 1871 and 1881 (which included several lean years towards the end) being 635,553, or 17·23 p.c. In neither of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, however, was this record equalled either absolutely or relatively, the gains in each being under 550,000, or 12 p.c. With the end of the century the population of Canada had reached approximately five and a third millions, or twenty times that of 1800. It has increased by five millions in the past thirty years.

**Expansion in the Twentieth Century.**—It is within the present century that the most spectacular expansion of the population of Canada has taken place. The outstanding feature was, of course, the opening to settlement of the West. The unorganized territories of British North America had been ceded to the Dominion soon after Confederation, and the West had been tapped and traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 'eighties and 'nineties. But though western population was doubled in each of these decades, it was only with the launching of a large-scale immigration movement after 1900 that western settlement and production became a first-rate economic factor. Simultaneously an almost equally striking development occurred in the industrial centres of Eastern Canada, forming the immediate basis for the move upon the West. At the back, of course, was the heavy inflow of British and other capital—a total of \$1,500,000,000 between 1900 and 1912—to finance large constructive undertakings (chiefly railway, municipal and industrial) which characterized the movement. The years 1901 to 1911, in brief, form the *decas mirabilis* of Canadian expansion. The immigration movement just mentioned, which had previously run well under 50,000 per annum, rose rapidly to over five times that volume, eventually passing 400,000 in a single year. In the ten years between 1901 and 1911 it exceeded 1,800,000 and, though at least a third of these were lost (partly in the return to Europe of labour temporarily attracted by the railway and other developments in progress, and partly in the never-ceasing and natural "drag" of the United States upon a virile and less wealthy people), it formed the chief factor in the gain of 34 p.c. which the total population of Canada registered in that decade, and which was larger than the relative growth of any other country during the same period. The movement was continued and even intensified in the first three years of the second decade of the century, after which a recession set in to which the outbreak of war gave a new and wholly unexpected turn. Nevertheless, the decade which closed with the Census of 1921 showed over 1,700,000 immigrant arrivals in Canada, and, though the proportionate loss of these was very heavy (probably as much as two-thirds), Canada's relative gain for the decade was again among the largest in the world.

**Results of the Census of 1931.**—The total population of the Dominion on June 1, 1931, was 10,376,786, as compared with 8,787,949 on June 1, 1921, an increase of 1,588,837 or 18·08 p.c. in the decade, as compared with 21·94 p.c. and 34·17 p.c. during the decades 1911 to 1921 and 1901 to 1911 respectively.