Section 5.—Racial Origins.

In six out of seven censuses of Canada since Confederation the racial origin of each person has been secured, the exception being 1891. The object of this information is to ascertain from what basic ethnic stocks the Canadian population, more particularly the recently immigrated population, is derived. The answer "Canadian" is not accepted under this heading, as the purpose of the question is to obtain, in so far as possible, a definition of "Canadian" in terms of racial derivation. Of this procedure of the census, criticism has been received on two main grounds: (*a*) that there are Canadians whose family is of several generations residence in the country who may not know their ultimate racial origin, or who may be of very mixed racial origin; (*b*) that the practice tends to perpetuate racial distinctions which it is desirable to obliterate. As against these criticisms the following three points must be considered: (*a*) that the Canadian whose family is of three or more generations residence is enumerated and differentiated through the census question on the birthplace of parents for which statistics from the 1931 Census appeared at pp. 134-139 of the 1934-35 Year Book; (*b*) that notwithstanding the desirability of racial assimilation, there are special features in connection with the process that require appraisement and study—for example, 271 children of Chinese fathers and 842 of Japanese fathers were born in Canada in 1931. Again, the fact that the constitution of Canada is based on the presence of two dominant races points to the desirability of a measurement of these factors: only recently it has been widely pointed out that the original French colony, numbering 75,000 at the date of the Conquest, has expanded to over three millions to-day. Measurements of this kind would be impossible if the answer "Canadian" instead of "French" were accepted under the heading of racial origin, yet undoubtedly if the descendants of the original French colonists are not "Canadians", no one is; (*c*) finally, racial origin is an important subject for study in a "new" country like Canada from a scientific standpoint, *i.e.*, from the standpoint of the student of ethnology, criminology, and the social and "biometric" sciences in general.

To accept the answer "Canadian" to the question on racial origin would confuse the data and defeat the purpose for which the question is asked.

Racial Distribution.—The total increase in population over the decade 1921-31 was 1,588,837. The population of English origin increased by only 196,061 compared with 722,208 in the previous decade; that of Scottish origin by 172,725 compared with 175,745; and that of Irish origin by 123,005 compared with 57,419. The population of British origin, taken together, increased from 4,868,738 to 5,381,071, or by 512,333, between 1921 and 1931. This represented 32 p.c. of the total increase as compared with 61 p.c. of the total increase for the previous decade. On the other hand, the population of French origin increased from 2,452,743 in 1921 to 2,927,990 in 1931, or by 475,247 (slightly under 30 p.c. of the total increase for the decade) and showed the greatest absolute increase for any decade since 1871. Figures for the minor racial groups which make up the nation (see Table **13**) would indicate that the people of Scandinavian, German and Ukrainian origins increased between 1921 and 1931 by 36 p.c., 61 p.c. and 111 p.c., respectively. Owing to the new national and racial alignments in Central and Southeastern Europe following the Great War, comparison of the post-war numerical strength of certain ethnic stocks in Canada with pre-war returns cannot be made with any certainty. For example, a number of people reported as of Ukrainian stock in the Seventh Census were described in the censuses of 1921 and 1911 as Galician, Bukovinian, Ruthenian or Russian.