

will permit the student of population statistics to make, at least for Canada as a whole, his own line of demarcation between rural and urban populations.*

While a summary comparison between urbanization in Canada in 1931 and in the United States in 1930 would lead us to the conclusion that our country, though far less densely peopled than the United States, had an almost equally large percentage of its population in urban communities, *viz.*, 53.70 p.c. in Canada as compared with 56.2 p.c. in the United States, the fact that in the United States inhabitants of places having under 2,500 population are included with rural population must be taken into account. A fairer basis of comparison is secured if the same population limits are taken for both countries, as may be done by using Table 18. Thus, at the Census of 1930, the United States had 29.5 p.c. of its population resident in cities of 100,000 and over, while Canada in 1931 had only 22.44 p.c. of its population in such places. The United States had an additional 18 p.c. of its population residing in cities of between 10,000 and 100,000 population, and 4.8 p.c. in cities and towns of 5,000 to 10,000, while Canada had in cities of these categories only 14.87 p.c., and 4.42 p.c., respectively, of its population. Thus, taking all places of 5,000 and over—the lowest population for which comparative figures are readily available—52.3 p.c. of the population of the United States resided in such places as compared with 41.73 p.c. of the population of Canada, showing the much higher degree of urbanization which has been reached in the United States—a natural thing in an older settled and more densely peopled country.

On the basis of the census classification, it is apparent from Table 17 that in the last decade, as in the previous one, urban communities absorbed nearly 77 p.c. of the total increase in population, with the result that the urban population of Canada in 1931 exceeded the rural by 767,330. Out of every 1,000 persons in the country, 463 were resident, on June 1, 1931, in rural and 537 in urban communities. as compared with 505 in rural and 495 in urban communities on June 1, 1921; 546 in rural and 454 in urban communities in 1911; 625 in rural and 375 in urban communities in 1901; and 682 in rural and 318 in urban communities in 1891.

From Table 18, showing the distribution of urban population in Canada by size of cities and towns, it is seen that Canada possessed, in 1931, two cities of more than half a million population. These are Montreal and Toronto, with 818,577 and 631,207 inhabitants, respectively. Two other cities, Vancouver and Winnipeg, have attained the 200,000 mark and Hamilton, Quebec and Ottawa each have populations of over 100,000. The two western cities of Calgary and Edmonton are now in the 75,000 to 100,000 class. In this respect London, which excelled Edmonton in 1921, now takes the next lower place with a population of 71,148. Details of the population of these and other smaller cities and towns of 5,000 and over, are given by censuses from 1871 to 1931 in Table 19, while the populations of urban communities having in 1931 a population of from 1,000 to 5,000 each, are given for 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931 in Table 20.

*In the United States, urban population, prior to 1930, was classified by the Census Bureau as that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more with certain minor qualifications, but in 1930 the definition was slightly modified to include townships and other political divisions, not incorporated as municipalities, having a total population of 10,000 or more each, and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile. The direct result of this modification has been to increase slightly the proportion of urban population.