

Centres of Population.—The “centre of population”* for the Dominion of Canada was carefully worked out for each census from 1851 to 1931, inclusive, and showed a definite north-westward movement up to 1911, westward for the next decade and northward for 1931. For the censuses of 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 northeast 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 5.

* The centres of population are the centres of gravity (not the intersections 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 counties with very large cities, where special adjustments were made.

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

Province or Territory.	Land Area in Sq. Miles	Population, 1901. ¹		Population, 1911. ¹		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...	27,473	331,120	12.06	351,889	12.81	387,876	14.12	408,219	14.86
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).....	2,402,993	5,323,967	2.66	7,191,624	3.59	8,775,319 ²	4.38	10,362,833	5.18
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. Cdn. Navy....	—	—	—	—	—	485	—	—	—
Canada.....	3,466,556	5,371,315	1.55	7,206,643	2.06	8,787,949 ²	2.53	10,376,786	2.99

¹ The populations of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories were adjusted for 1911 according to the provisions of the Boundary Extensions Acts, 1912, but such adjustment was not carried back to 1901.

² Populations 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.