

Racial Origins of Immigrants.—Where there is any considerable immigration into a democratic country, the racial and linguistic composition of the immigrants is of great importance. Canadians prefer that settlers should be of a readily assimilable type, already identified by race or language with one or other of the two great races now inhabiting this country and prepared for the duties of Canadian citizenship. Since the French are not, to any great extent, an emigrating people, this means in practice that the great bulk of the preferable settlers are those who speak the English language—those coming from the United Kingdom or the United States. Next in order of readiness of assimilation are the Scandinavians, Dutch, and Germans, who readily learn English and are already acquainted with the working of democratic institutions. Settlers from Southern and Eastern Europe, however desirable from a purely economic point of view, are less readily assimilated, and the Canadianizing of the people who have come to Canada from these regions in the present century is a problem both in the agricultural Prairie Provinces and in the cities of the East. Less assimilable still, are those who come to Canada from the Orient. On the whole, the great bulk of Canadian immigration of the past generation has been drawn from the English-speaking countries and from those continental European countries where the population is ethnically closely related to the British, though for some years there was an increasing immigration of Slavs.

The racial origins of the immigrants who arrived in Canada in the calendar years 1926–36 are shown in Table 5. In the latest year the British races contributed 44 p.c. of the immigrants and the French 7 p.c.

5.—Racial Origins of Immigrants into Canada, calendar years 1926–36.

NOTE.—Dashes in this table indicate that no immigrants were reported under the corresponding stub items.

Racial Origin.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
British—											
English.....	30,593	34,056	37,662	43,287	24,789	9,417	6,461	4,301	3,491	3,089	3,049
Irish.....	11,425	11,857	12,523	14,478	7,876	2,748	1,886	1,316	1,021	895	854
Scottish.....	16,339	17,569	18,532	23,207	11,996	3,825	2,612	1,700	1,198	1,204	1,133
Welsh.....	1,568	2,204	3,316	3,586	1,116	371	184	126	115	88	105
Totals, British.....	59,925	65,686	72,033	84,558	45,777	16,361	11,143	7,443	5,825	5,276	5,141
Continental European—											
Albanian.....	11	38	38	22	33	5	—	—	4	1	4
Belgian.....	1,922	2,448	1,341	952	427	97	81	50	78	100	94
Bohemian.....	112	80	90	104	76	22	24	12	10	7	13
Bulgarian.....	88	243	267	311	353	17	16	15	5	13	23
Croatian.....	1,138	963	1,108	751	604	118	95	107	152	158	232
Czech.....	778	726	987	440	261	78	77	54	76	113	124
Dalmatian.....	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dutch.....	2,204	2,631	2,255	1,980	1,605	308	247	190	150	172	211
Estonian.....	77	111	108	98	87	9	1	3	2	3	5
Finnish.....	4,811	5,167	3,758	4,712	2,811	136	62	67	79	64	61
French.....	2,882	3,834	4,605	5,187	5,084	2,938	2,832	1,337	903	840	833
German.....	13,791	15,845	17,964	17,919	13,544	2,389	1,842	1,213	945	725	792
Greek.....	319	610	770	741	575	66	71	53	58	67	92
Herzegovinian.....	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italian.....	2,683	4,617	1,114	1,514	1,327	633	435	365	375	392	349
Jewish.....	4,867	5,184	4,059	4,001	4,220	670	747	781	869	803	659
Lettish.....	58	81	78	83	36	2	8	3	1	2	5
Lithuanian.....	792	893	1,799	959	624	65	49	44	45	25	51
Magyar.....	5,262	5,875	6,366	5,484	3,360	530	333	506	442	344	334
Maltese.....	35	38	26	41	22	5	6	—	—	—	4
Mexican.....	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	6
Montenegrin.....	1	4	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moravian.....	22	50	7	21	5	1	3	—	—	—	—
Polish.....	5,552	8,481	8,583	6,424	5,207	680	474	410	436	447	414
Portuguese.....	21	7	22	28	11	5	9	5	5	5	4
Roumanian.....	358	248	336	400	300	48	38	38	44	43	61
Russian.....	1,261	1,280	1,245	858	1,123	111	104	82	70	99	94
Ruthenian.....	9,534	10,899	16,080	11,009	8,133	541	482	390	578	483	815
Scandinavian—											
Danish.....	1,696	4,032	4,092	3,140	1,421	175	116	82	63	54	63
Icelandic.....	57	50	49	35	40	10	12	10	12	11	4
Norwegian.....	3,820	6,415	3,707	3,750	1,808	262	275	144	132	122	101
Swedish.....	3,011	3,866	4,284	3,895	1,440	276	225	126	100	113	81