

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.

During the decade 1911-21 the countries which comprise the British Empire, and more especially the United States which was in the Great War for only nineteen months as against Canada's fifty-two, had suffered less in actual loss of life from the War and its consequences than the continental countries of Europe. None of them declined in population during the period, as many continental European countries did. Their percentage increases, however, were in almost all cases lower than in the previous decade. Thus the population of England and Wales increased between 1911 and 1921 only from 36,070,492 to 37,886,699, or 5.0 p.c., as compared with an increase of 10.9 p.c. in the previous decade; Scotland, again, increased only from 4,760,904 to 4,882,497, or 2.6 p.c., as compared with 6.5 p.c. between 1901 and 1911. Nor has this situation been much improved in the post-war decade 1921-31, for the increase in England and Wales during these years was but 5.4 p.c. and Scotland actually showed a decrease of 0.8 p.c. Of the overseas Dominions, New Zealand, according to the official estimate* increased her population from 1,218,913 to 1,452,747, or by about 19 p.c. for the decade ended 1931, as compared with 20.9 p.c. and 30.5 p.c., respectively, for the decades ended 1921 and 1911. In the case of the white population of South Africa, much the same condition obtained. The Commonwealth of Australia, the only Dominion to grow more rapidly in the second decade of the twentieth century than in the first, increased from 4,455,005 in 1911 to 5,435,734 in 1921, or by 22.01 p.c., as compared with 18.05 p.c. for 1901-11, and to 6,552,606 in 1931 according to the official estimate,* or by 20.5 p.c. in the decade 1921-31. The population of the continental United States increased between 1920 and 1930 from 105,710,620 to 122,775,046, an increase of 16.1 p.c. as compared with 14.9 p.c. in the decade 1910-20 and 21 p.c. in the decade 1900-10.

Considering now the movement of population within the Dominion of Canada itself, it is evident from Table 1 that in this country, as formerly in the United States, there has been a distinct movement of population from east to west. In the decade from 1911 to 1921 this was clearly apparent, for the four western provinces then increased their population by no less than 44 p.c. This growth occurred chiefly in the three Prairie Provinces for their combined population increased in the decade by 47.3 p.c., while that of British Columbia increased by 33.6 p.c. In the first two decades of the century the economic factor which had the greatest influence on population growth and movement in Canada was undoubtedly the agricultural settlement of the Prairie Provinces. The growth of population in these provinces was assisted both by immigration into Canada and by movement of domestic population from east to west.

While the agricultural industry of the Prairie Provinces has encountered periods of serious difficulty since the War, major economic developments have been in progress in the mining, forest products, and hydro-electric power industries of Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. Furthermore, in this period immigration has been less important as a factor in population growth (see Table 1, p. 156) than

* In both New Zealand and Australia the 1931 censuses were postponed and were taken in March, 1936, and June, 1933, respectively.