

CHAPTER IV.—POPULATION.*

CONSPECTUS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
SECTION 1. CENSUS STATISTICS OF GENERAL POPULATION.....	70	SECTION 11. LITERACY.....	100
SECTION 2. SEX DISTRIBUTION.....	81	SECTION 12. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.....	101
SECTION 3. CONJUGAL CONDITION.....	83	SECTION 13. BLIND AND DEAF-MUTES...	101
SECTION 4. AGE DISTRIBUTION.....	84	SECTION 14. DWELLINGS AND FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS.....	101
SECTION 5. RACIAL ORIGINS.....	85	SECTION 15. OCCUPATIONS OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE.....	102
SECTION 6. RELIGIONS.....	87	SECTION 16. QUINQUENNIAL CENSUS OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES.....	102
SECTION 7. BIRTHPLACES.....	89	SECTION 17. ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF POPULATION.....	102
SECTION 8. CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION.....	90	SECTION 18. AREA AND POPULATION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.....	103
SECTION 9. LANGUAGE SPOKEN AND MOTHER TONGUE.....	91	SECTION 19. AREA AND POPULATION OF THE WORLD.....	103
SECTION 10. RURAL AND URRAN POPULATION.....	92		

The Population chapter of the Year Book is a *précis* of the results of investigations into the number and the constitution of the population made in the seven censuses of Canada since Confederation, summarizing the growth and distribution of population between 1871 and 1931, as shown by the successive decennial censuses, in regard to the chief matters investigated at the censuses. Owing to the extent of the field covered, it is quite impossible to include in each edition of the Year Book a full digest of population statistics. The policy adopted, therefore, is to maintain the skeleton of the chapter and the historical tables as a permanent feature and build up each section as statistics are available following each census. After complete and accurate summary statistics have been given publicity, the chapter is cut down to skeleton limits, with adequate references, until the next census. The 1934-35 Year Book gives at pp. 98-169 as complete a picture of the 1931 Census statistics as will appear in one Year Book.

Under the Canadian constitution, the legal *raison d'être* of the census is to determine representation in the House of Commons; after each decennial census a redistribution of seats in the House, following the course of the movement of population, is made in the manner described on pp. 50-52 of this volume. But the census, especially since the introduction of methods of mechanical tabulation, has become far more than a mere counting of heads. It is a great periodical stock-taking of the people and their affairs, designed to show as fully as possible the stage that has been reached in the progress of the nation. Thus the numbers, local distribution, age, sex, racial origin, nationality, language, religion, education, housing, and occupations of the people, severally, constitute investigations of enormous importance, to which all the continuous and routine statistics collected in the ordinary course of administration must be related if their full value is to be realized. The census, in fine, rounds out and completes the scheme of information upon which the Government relies in conducting the business of the country.

* This chapter has been revised by A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief, Demography Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A list of the publications of this Branch will be found in Chapter XXIX, Section 1, under "Population".