

Early Censuses.—The credit of taking the first census of modern times belongs to Canada; the year was 1666, the census that of the colony of New France. Still earlier records of settlement at Port Royal (1605) and Quebec (1608) are extant; but the Census of 1666 was a systematic 'nominal' enumeration of the people, taken on the *de jure* principle on a fixed date, showing age, sex, occupation, and conjugal and family condition. A second census in 1667 included the areas under cultivation and the numbers of sheep and cattle. When it is recalled that in Europe the first census dates only from the eighteenth century (those of France and England from the first year of the nineteenth) and that, in the United States, the census begins only with 1790, the achievement of the primitive St. Lawrence colony in instituting what is to-day one of the principal instruments of government throughout the civilized world, may call for more than passing appreciation.

The Census of 1666 (the results occupy 154 pages in manuscript, and are still to be seen in the Archives of Paris, or in a transcript at Ottawa) showed some 3,215 souls. It was repeated at intervals more or less regularly for a hundred years. By 1685 the total had risen to 12,515, including 1,538 Indians settled in villages and living a civilized life under the supervision of the missionaries. By the end of the century it had passed 15,000, and this was doubled in the next twenty-five years. Not to present too much detail, some of which is in the Chronology on pp. 25-36, it may be said that at the time of the cession (1763) the population of New France was nearly 70,000 (69,810 in 1765), while another 10,000 French (thinned to these proportions by the expulsion of the Acadians) were scattered through what are now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The British population of Nova Scotia was 8,104 in 1762, thirteen years after the foundation of Halifax in 1749.

The chief sources of statistics for half a century and more after the cession are the reports—more or less sporadic—of colonial governors, though censuses of the different sections under British rule were taken at irregular intervals. British settlement on a substantial scale in the Gulf provinces and in Ontario dates only from the Loyalist movement that followed the American Revolution, at the end of which, i.e., about the year of the Constitutional Act (1791), the population of Lower Canada was approximately 163,000, while the newly constituted Province of Upper Canada, under Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, numbered perhaps 15,000, and the addition of the maritime colonies brought the total to well over 200,000. A decade later Canada began the nineteenth century with a population of probably not less than 250,000 or 260,000. Subsequent censuses gave the populations of the different colonies as follows: Upper Canada (1824) 150,066, (1840) 432,159; Lower Canada (1822) 427,465, (1844) 697,084; New Brunswick (1824) 74,176, (1840) 156,162; Nova Scotia (1817) 81,351, (1838) 202,575; Prince Edward Island (1822) 22,600, (1841) 47,042.*

The policy of irregular census-taking was supposed to have been ended after the union of Upper and Lower Canada by an Act, passed on Sept. 18, 1841, which provided for a census in the year 1842 and every fifth year thereafter, but under this Act only the census of Upper Canada was taken and the following year, on Dec. 9, the Act was amended, the reason being stated as follows: "Whereas the Census of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two as required by an Act of this Legislature, . . . hath not been duly taken . . .

* A résumé of the results of all the censuses taken in Canada between 1666 and 1931 has been published in bulletin form and is included in Vol. I, Census of 1931.