

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. 70) than in pre-war years, and thus the high rate of natural increase in Quebec (see Table 32, p. 141) has become a relatively greater factor. The Census of 1931 revealed the changing trends resulting from these influences, for in this latest decade the population of British Columbia increased 32.3 p.c. and of Quebec 21.7 p.c. compared with 20.3 p.c. for the Prairie Provinces. This change is also indicated by the percentage figures of Table 2, p. 71. The 1936 Quinquennial Census of the Prairie Provinces showed very little growth of population in those provinces in the five-year period after 1931.

Microphotography as Applied to Canadian Census Records.—This method of preserving records in condensed form was introduced in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in June, 1939. The principle of the method is that each page of record is photographed in very reduced size on a roll of film. The completed film is indexed and stored in specially-constructed steel cabinets fitted with apparatus to regulate the moisture content of the air, since this factor has a pronounced effect on the preservation of the film. When it becomes necessary to consult the records, the film is placed in a projector which magnifies the photographed records so that they can be read easily.

Up to the present time, the Census Branch alone is making use of microphotography, although its value for library records is also under consideration. The space required to house the census records is very great as all primary records from 1871 to the present time must be kept in readily available form. Census records provide basic data for many purposes; among other things they are used to verify applications for old-age pensions, the number of which has increased rapidly since all the provinces have come under the Act, and are fundamental to many other administrative departments of government. The micro-film, which becomes the record to which ready access is made, can be stored in less than 1 p.c. of the space required for the original records; the latter can then be stored away permanently in less valuable space.

Another advantage of the system is that constant handling of original schedules, which results in their rapid deterioration, is eliminated. The microphotographic method permits the original records to be maintained in good condition indefinitely. Again, the weight of the micro-film is infinitesimal as compared to the weight of the folders containing the original schedules, and, as many trips to the record stacks are required each day, considerable effort has been involved in the task of lifting and carrying the heavy schedules. The cabinets containing the films can be conveniently brought to the point where the clerks are working.

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

* 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 and of counties with very large cities, where special adjustments were made.