

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 the Act was amended, and a census of Lower Canada was taken in 1844. Under legislation of 1847, a "Board of Registration and Statistics" was created and a census of Upper Canada was taken in 1848.

Finally an Act was passed on Aug. 30, 1851, providing for a census to be taken in January, 1852, then in the year 1861 and thereafter every tenth year, and that better provision should be made for taking the census. The first census thereunder was taken in January, 1852, and, as similar censuses were taken by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, there is a regular measure of population growth in Canada over the past 80 years. The 'fifties saw a very rapid development, especially in Ontario, and the 'sixties showed only less substantial gains. In the years following Confederation there was a spurt, the increase between 1871 and 1881 (which included several lean years towards the end) being 635,553, or 17.23 p.c. In neither of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, however, was this record equalled either absolutely or relatively, the gains in each being under 550,000, or 12 p.c. By the end of the century the population of Canada had reached approximately five and a third millions, or twenty times that of 1800. It has increased by five millions in the past thirty years.

The opening of the settlement of the West, and the consequent influx of immigrants, caused the population to double in the 'eighties and again in the 'nineties, and the launching of a large-scale immigration movement after 1900, which affected both the agricultural West and the industrial East, was reflected in the Census of 1911, which showed an increase of 1,835,328 in the decade. The movement was continued and even intensified in the first three years of the second decade of the century, after which a recession set in, to which the outbreak of war gave a new and wholly unexpected turn. Nevertheless, the decade that closed with the Census of 1921 showed over 1,700,000 immigrant arrivals in Canada, and, though the proportionate loss of these was very heavy (probably as much as two-thirds), Canada's relative gain for the decade was again among the largest in the world.

* 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.