

of Saskatchewan, for example, making provision that 100 people actually resident on an area not greater than 640 acres may claim incorporation as a village, while the Ontario law now requires that villages asking for incorporation shall have a population of 750 on an area not exceeding 500 acres. Thus, the line of demarcation between rural and urban population is not at all uniformly drawn throughout the Dominion, as far as comparable aggregations of population are concerned, and the distinction made between 'rural' and 'urban' population is a distinction of provincial legal status rather than of size of aggregations of population within limited areas.

A table published at p. 147 of the 1934-35 Year Book gives the rural and urban populations, by provinces and sex, and divides the incorporated urban centres into two groups, viz., under one thousand, and one thousand or over, thereby allowing a closer comparison than is possible from Table 17. In the 1940 Year Book, p. 95, a table is given showing urban populations classified by size of municipality groups.

A summary comparison between urbanization in Canada in 1931 and in the United States in 1930 leads to the conclusion that Canada, though far less densely peopled than the United States, had an almost equally large percentage of its population in urban communities, viz., 53.70 p.c. in Canada as compared with 56.2 p.c. in the United States.* A fairer basis of comparison, however, is secured if the same population limits are taken for both countries, as may be done by using Table 17. Thus, at the Census of 1930, the United States had 29.5 p.c. of its population resident in cities of 100,000 or over, while Canada in 1931 had only 22.44 p.c. of its population in such places. The United States had an additional 18 p.c. of its population residing in cities of between 10,000 and 100,000 population, and 4.8 p.c. in cities and towns of 5,000 to 10,000, while Canada had in cities of these categories only 14.87 p.c. and 4.42 p.c., respectively, of its population. Thus, taking all places of 5,000 or over—the lowest population for which comparative figures are readily available—52.3 p.c. of the population of the United States resided in such places as compared with 41.73 p.c. of the population of Canada, showing the much higher degree of urbanization that has been reached in the United States—a natural thing in an older settled and more densely peopled country.

On the basis of the census classification, it is apparent from Table 16 that in the decade 1921-31, as in the previous one, urban communities absorbed nearly 77 p.c. of the total increase in population, with the result that the urban population of Canada in 1931 exceeded the rural by 767,330. Out of every 1,000 persons in the country, 463 were resident, on June 1, 1931, in rural and 537 in urban communities, as compared with 505 in rural and 495 in urban communities on June 1, 1921; 546 in rural and 454 in urban communities in 1911; 625 in rural and 375 in urban communities in 1901; and 682 in rural and 318 in urban communities in 1891.

All the larger cities have in their neighbourhoods growing 'satellite' towns or other densely settled areas in close economic relationship with the central municipality. This phenomenon is, to-day, of increasing importance largely as a result of the greater ease and speed of transportation by motor vehicle. It has, therefore, been considered advisable to calculate the total populations resident in what the United States census authorities call the "metropolitan districts". On this basis the total

* In the United States, urban population, prior to 1930, was classified by the Census Bureau as that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more with certain minor qualifications, but in 1930 the definition was slightly modified to include townships and other political divisions not incorporated as municipalities, having a total population of 10,000 or more each, and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile. The direct result of this modification has been to increase slightly the proportion of urban population.