

Similar censuses of New France, which grew in detail, were taken no less than thirty-six times during the years intervening between 1666 and 1739 and many more times from that date to the close of the French regime in 1763. During the following years (see the 1942 Year Book, p. 83) a series of less elaborate reports supervened, with censuses appearing at irregular intervals, until the year 1841 when an Act was passed on Sept. 18, after the union of Upper and Lower Canada, which provided that a census should be taken in the year 1842 and every fifth year thereafter. Under this Act a census of Upper Canada only was taken: the Act was amended in 1842 and a census of Lower Canada was taken in 1844. (See Census of Canada, 1931, Vol. I, p. 36.)

In 1847, legislation was passed creating a Board of Registration and Statistics which took a census of Upper Canada in 1848 and a general census in 1850.

In 1851, Royal Assent was given to an Act to provide more effectually for the taking of the census in 1852 (these figures were later linked with those taken by the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1851, and in Prince Edward Island in 1848 to give reasonably comparable totals, *circa* 1851, for these sections of British North America), 1861 and every tenth year thereafter. An unbroken series of census records, taken at regular decennial periods, is therefore available for all provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada over a period of ninety years. With the opening up of settlement in the three western provinces, immigration developed on such a scale that an Act was passed in 1918 providing that a census of population and agriculture be taken in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1926 and every tenth year thereafter. Thus censuses of the Prairie Provinces are now taken quinquennially and of the Dominion as a whole decennially. The primary purpose of the former is to fix the basis for subsidies payable on a per capita basis to the western provinces by the Dominion Government. (See Census Legislation in Canada, Census of Canada, 1931, Vol. I, p. 29; or Statutes 49 Vict., c. 46, s. 5; 4-5 Edw. VII, c. 3, s. 18B; 4-5 Edw. VII, c. 42, s. 18B.)

Growth of Population in Canada.—A brief résumé of the population history of Canada from the first census in 1666, when it numbered 3,215 persons, to the eighth Dominion Census of 1941, when the figure was 11,506,655, places Canada among the leading countries of the British Empire in the rate of population growth. The inflow of capital and the opening up of new and vast areas with the consequent stimulation of immigration began with the opening of the twentieth century and was the latest episode in the transformation of the central prairie region, which, in the course of forty years, has been organized into provinces and developed with such promise. The population of the Dominion of Canada at the end of the nineteenth century was approximately 5,400,000; it had about doubled this figure by 1931. The general increase in the population of European countries during the entire nineteenth century was approximately three-fold; Canada equalled this rate of progress during the sixty years from 1871 to 1931.

In the decade 1901-11 immigration, alone, totalled 1,800,000. This figure was the main factor in the gain of 34.2 p.c.—the total population of Canada registered in that decade—which was relatively larger than the growth of any modern country during the same period.