

The next decade started out with an intensification of this immigration movement, but with the outbreak of the War of 1914-18 a recession set in. The effects of that War upon the Canadian population were both direct and indirect. Nearly 60,000 members of the Canadian Forces died overseas and approximately 20,000 took their discharge in the United Kingdom. To these may be added 50,000 deaths from the war plague, influenza. In addition large numbers of British Isles residents in Canada, most of them recent immigrants, left Canada to join the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom and did not return; the same is true of enemy nationals who passed in considerable numbers into the United States immediately before and after the declaration of hostilities. The fluidity of the Canadian population accordingly rendered the War costly in personnel far beyond actual casualties. However, the net result over the ten years was a population increase of 21·9 p.c. or the largest increase for any modern country with the exception of Australia where an increase of 22·0 p.c. was recorded.

The Census of 1931 showed a further increase of 18·1 p.c. over 1921. Natural increase and immigration contributed 1,325,256 and 1,509,136, respectively, although the net gain was only 1,588,837 since estimated emigration was 1,245,555, for the 10 years. Census returns of Great Britain for 1921-31 showed an increase of 4·7 p.c., equalling that of the previous decade. New Zealand in the ten-year interval between 1911-21 showed an increase of 19·8 p.c. and between 1921-31, 19·3 p.c. A census of Australia was not taken in 1931, but the official estimate of population based on the Census of 1933 gives an increase of 19·8 p.c. as against 22·0 p.c. for the period 1911-21. Census figures for the United States showed an increase of population of 14·9 p.c. between 1910-20 and 16·1 p.c. from 1920-30.

The eighth census of Canada taken June 2, 1941, gave the population as 11,506,655 as compared with 10,376,786 as of June 1, 1931, an increase of 1,129,869 or 10·9 p.c. in the decade. During the greater part of this decade Canada, along with all other countries, was face to face with a prolonged and severe economic depression; immigration was still further restricted by government regulations as well as by economic necessity. The figures for immigrant arrivals were actually reduced from 1,166,004 in the ten-year period 1921-31 to 140,361 in 1931-41. The natural increase for this period showed a reduction of about 7 p.c. and, since immigration was reduced more than 88 p.c. over the decade, the net increase in population was due almost entirely to the favourable birth and death rates of the established population.

PART I.—STATISTICS OF GENERAL POPULATION

Section 1.—Census Statistics of General Population

Since the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, decennial censuses have been taken as of Apr. 2, 1871, Apr. 4, 1881, Apr. 5, 1891, Apr. 1, 1901, June 1, 1911, 1921, 1931 and June 2, 1941. Summary figures are given in Tables 1 and 2.