

## PART II.—CENSUS ANALYSES OF GENERAL POPULATION

### Section 1.—Rural and Urban Population

The population residing in cities, towns and incorporated villages has been defined for census purposes as 'urban' and that outside of such localities as 'rural'. The distinction between rural and urban populations in Canada, therefore, is a distinction of provincial legal status rather than of size of aggregation of population within a limited area. Since the laws of the various provinces differ in regard to the population necessary before a municipality may be incorporated as urban,\* the line of demarcation between rural and urban population is not uniformly drawn throughout the Dominion.

This basis of comparing rural and urban populations adhered to throughout the census analyses is adopted for Canada because the necessary comparable data over a long period of years required for comparison by degree of urbanization does not exist. Obviously, the populations of villages of less than 1,000 cannot be regarded as truly urban, although there is reason, for certain purposes, to distinguish them from the surrounding rural populations, in that they enjoy definite cultural advantages not possessed by the strictly rural municipalities.

Table 2 has been prepared to overcome some of the difficulties involved, and to provide a basis for comparison of urban centres by size with those of other countries. These data enable places outside any required size limits to be readily excluded. Similar data, by provinces, will be found in Vol. II of the Census of 1941.

\* In Saskatchewan the original legislation of 1908 provided that a community of 50 persons on an area not greater than 640 acres might be incorporated. Several amendments have since been made and, as the Act now stands, 100 people resident on an area not greater than 240 acres may be incorporated. The Ontario law, on the other hand, requires that a village before it can be incorporated must have a population of 750 on an area not exceeding 500 acres.

