

CHAPTER III.—POPULATION*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

This Chapter presents only a limited summary of the voluminous data on population recorded by the Censuses of Canada. More detailed information and extended analyses are published in the Census volumes and reports, which are obtainable from the Queen's Printer or the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. A list of such publications and their prices is available on request.

Section 1.—Census of Population

Subsection 1.—History of the Census

A brief account of the early censuses of Canada is given under this heading in the 1956 Year Book at pp. 146–149. More detailed information on the history of census-taking in Canada may be found in Vol. XI (Administrative Report) of the 1951 Census of Canada, in the Administrative Report of the 1941 Census of Canada, and in Vol. I of the 1931 Census of Canada.

Subsection 2.—Growth and Density of the Population

The population history of Canada, from the first census in 1666 when 3,215 persons were enumerated to the 1956 Census when the figure was 16,080,791, reveals an outstanding rate of population growth. Although each census period contributed to this growth, the periods 1901–11, 1911–21, 1941–51 and 1951–56 merit particular mention.†

In the first half of the present century, Canada's population increased from 5,371,315 at the beginning of the period to just over 14,000,000 in 1951, or to 13,648,013 if Newfoundland is excluded. In the thirty years up to 1931 the population almost doubled and

* Revised in the Census (Demography) Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† An outline of the growth of population in Canada since the beginning of the Seventeenth Century may be found in Vol. I of the 1931 Census. Other accounts of population growth prior to the present century are included in Vol. I of the 1941 Census and Vol. X of the 1951 Census.