

CHAPTER III.—POPULATION

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii of this volume.

Section 1.—Census of Population

This Section presents only a limited summary of the voluminous data on population recorded by the 1961 Census of Canada, with certain comparable data from earlier censuses. More detailed information is published in a series of reports which are obtainable from the Queen's Printer or the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A list of these publications is available on request from the Information and Public Relations Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Subsection 1.—Growth and Movement of Population*

Population Growth.—Canada's population stood at 18,238,000 in 1961 as against 10,377,000 in 1931 and 5,371,000 in 1901. In the first decade of the century, the gain of 34 p.c. was greater than in any censal period up to 1961. Growth was associated with the opening up of the West for settlement and massive immigration from overseas. During the 1901-11 period, about 1,760,000 immigrants entered the country and natural increase amounted to an estimated 1,000,000. As the total increase in population was 1,835,328, it is evident that there was substantial emigration during the period. In the 1911-21 period, population growth dropped to 22 p.c. Military losses in the First World War and losses during the influenza epidemic, which together amounted to about 120,000, were a factor in this decline. Although the flow of immigrants was reduced during the war years, it had been very heavy immediately preceding the War, so that the total number for the period (1,612,000) was very close to that for the previous censal period. However, emigration was also extremely high and the increase in population amounted to 1,581,306, representing 2 p.c. per annum compared with 3 p.c. in the 1901-11 period.

In the decade 1921-31, the rate of increase dropped to 18 p.c. Immigration fell to 1,200,000 and emigration was estimated at 1,000,000. Thus the increase in population,

* 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.