

The 1931 census will employ about 260 Commissioners and upwards of 14,000 enumerators. The Commissioners are appointed by the Minister and instructed by an officer of the Bureau; on the other hand the enumerators are appointed and instructed by the Commissioners. All field officers are paid for the most part on a "piece" basis and are required to pass a practical test in the work before appointment.

For the actual compilation work an extra temporary staff of between 700 and 800 clerks will be engaged at Ottawa. All compilation is done by machinery. The numerous facts obtained for each individual are punched, by location, on a specially designed card. The sorting, counting and recording are then done mechanically.

While, as regards the field covered, the 1931 census follows the main lines of its predecessors, it has several important new features. Additional information will be obtained with regard to institutions such as hospitals, asylums, reformatories, child-welfare, etc., which will be useful in aiding in the solution of social problems that are becoming more pressing each year. The unemployment situation will also receive special attention, and new data regarding wholesale and retail trading activities will be gathered with the purpose of giving a bird's-eye view of the great problem of distribution, for the first time in Canada. The agricultural section of the Census will also be improved, commensurate with the part played by this all-important basic industry.

At the present time other countries both in Europe and America are putting forth strenuous efforts to ensure more comprehensive and accurate censuses and a tendency to increase the frequency of census taking, due to the increasing complexity of modern life, the greater demands on Governments, and the great need for comprehensive economic information upon which to base business and commercial policies is obvious.

Every effort is being made at the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to speed up the work of taking the 1931 census and of collating and analysing the results. First results for many cities, towns and counties should be available within three or four months after the count is taken. These will be published as soon as possible. In the meantime the 1921 figures are the latest, but as they will be superseded so soon, the contents of the present chapter have been reduced to a minimum, as explained under Section 2, p. 132.

Density of Population.—The density of population in 1921 (*i.e.*, the number of persons per square mile of the land area as in that year), is shown by provinces and for the country as a whole in Table 5. Generally speaking, the density of population decreases as one travels westward, but the enormous area of the province of Quebec (which, as calculated at that time, included the Labrador Coast area, subsequently awarded to Newfoundland) reduced the density of its population to the low figure of 3.42. As among the nine provinces, the density of population is greatest in Prince Edward Island and least in British Columbia.