

During the decade 1911-21 the countries which comprise the British Empire, and more especially the United States which was in the Great War for only nineteen months as against Canada's fifty-two, had suffered less in actual loss of life from the War and its consequences than the continental countries of Europe. None of them declined in population during the period, as many continental European countries did. Their percentage increases, however, were in almost all cases lower than in the previous decade. Thus the population of England and Wales increased between 1911 and 1921 only from 36,070,492 to 37,886,699, or 5.0 p.c., as compared with an increase of 10.9 p.c. in the previous decade; Scotland, again, increased only from 4,760,904 to 4,882,497, or 2.6 p.c., as compared with 6.5 p.c. between 1901 and 1911. Nor has this situation been much improved in the post-war decade 1921-31, for the increase in England and Wales during these years was but 5.4 p.c. and Scotland actually showed a decrease of 0.8 p.c. Of the overseas Dominions, New Zealand, according to the latest official estimate (the 1931 Census was postponed), increased her population from 1,218,913 to 1,510,940, or by nearly 24 p.c. for the decade ended 1931, as compared with 20.9 p.c. and 30.5 p.c. respectively for the decades ended 1921 and 1911. In the case of the white population of South Africa, much the same condition obtained. The Commonwealth of Australia, the only Dominion to grow more rapidly in the second decade of the twentieth century than in the first, increased from 4,455,005 in 1911 to 5,435,734 in 1921, or by 22.01 p.c., as compared with 18.05 p.c. for the previous decade, and by 19.85 p.c. to 6,630,600 in the most recent twelve-year period 1921-33.* The population of the continental United States increased between 1920 and 1930 from 105,710,620 to 122,775,046, an increase of 16.1 p.c., as compared with 14.9 p.c. in the decade 1910-20 and 21 p.c. in the decade 1900-10.

Considering now the movement of population within the Dominion of Canada itself, it is evident from Table 1 that in this country, as formerly in the United States, there is a distinct movement of population from east to west. In the decade from 1911 to 1921 this was clearly apparent, for the four western provinces then increased their population by no less than 44 p.c. and for the decade 1921-31 the increase was from 2,480,664 to 3,047,792, or 22.86 p.c. From 1921 to 1931 the five eastern provinces increased from 6,294,655 to 7,315,041, an increase of 1,020,386 persons, which, though absolutely larger than the figure for the West, constitutes an increase of only 16.2 p.c. over the 1921 population. The same conclusion may be deduced from Table 2, which shows that while in 1871 only 2.97 p.c. and in 1881 only 3.89 p.c. of the population of the country dwelt west of the lake of the Woods, the percentage in 1891 was 7.23; in 1901, 12.02; in 1911, 24.08; in 1921, 28.37; and in 1931, 29.51.

On the other hand, the Maritime Provinces, which in 1871 contained 20.80 p.c. of the total population of the Dominion, had, in 1881, 20.13 p.c.; in 1891, 18.22 p.c.; in 1901, 16.64 p.c.; in 1911, 13.02 p.c.; in 1921, 11.38 p.c.; and in 1931, only 9.72 p.c. of the population. Ontario and Quebec—the old pre-Confederation Province of Canada—still remain the chief centre of population. Their proportion of the total was 60.77 p.c. in 1931, as compared with 76.23 p.c. in 1871, 75.98 p.c. in 1881, 74.54 p.c. in 1891, 71.34 p.c. in 1901, 62.90 p.c. in 1911 and 60.25 p.c. in 1921. In other words, the net result of the sixty years has been that in 1931 three-fifths of the population of the Dominion lived in these provinces as compared with more than three-fourths in 1871.

*As in the case of New Zealand the 1931 Census was postponed, but was taken as of June 30, 1933.