

Section 15.—Occupations of the Canadian People.

An article specially prepared for the Year Book, and analysing comprehensively the occupations of the Canadian people as shown by the 1931 Census, appears at pp. 128-146 of the 1937 Year Book.

Section 16.—Quinquennial Census of the Prairie Provinces.

The latest census of the Prairie Provinces was that taken as of June 1, 1936. The 1937 edition of the Year Book, at pp. 146-152, shows statistics covering the population of each province, by electoral districts, sex, conjugal condition, age distribution, racial origin, birthplace, and by rural or urban habitation. Corrections to these figures with an additional table are given at p. 111 of the 1939 Year Book. The figures are also published in final form in Volumes I and II of the 1936 Census.

Section 17.—Annual Estimates of Population.

While the populations in different countries are actually counted at decennial or quinquennial censuses, annual estimates of populations are required by modern States for many purposes, such as the calculation of birth, death, and marriage rates, and of per capita figures of production, trade, finance, consumption, etc. In different countries various methods of obtaining annual figures of post-censal populations are adopted. For example, it is possible, with good vital statistics and records of arrivals and departures, to obtain the actual population at any particular date with approximate accuracy by the simple method of adding births and arrivals and subtracting deaths and departures during the period elapsed since the census. This method is impracticable for Canada, with 4,000 miles of common boundary line with the United States, crossed in both directions every day by many thousands of people. In almost all civilized countries, the actual methods of making the estimates vary. Thus, the method of arithmetical progression is widely used in estimating the populations in the older countries of the world; this method involves the annual addition to the population of the country and of particular areas within it of one-fifth or one-tenth of the numerical increase in the last quinquennial or decennial intercensal period. In the case of Canada annual figures of population were purely estimates, made on the basis of past increases, prior to the Census of 1931. They have now been worked out on a basis that takes into consideration collateral data back to 1867, and the resulting figures are believed to state the populations at intercensal periods more accurately than any published prior to 1931.

The new method upon which calculations are based is described at pp. 108-109 of the 1932 Year Book.

* The table of estimates and the description of the method upon which calculations are based are the work of M. C. MacLean, M.A., F.S.S., Chief of Social Analysis, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.