

cars have been introduced into industry and into home life over a series of decades. The changing complexion of the population can be traced in each area or locality, and the influences of age, sex, occupation, etc., shown. Comparative standards of living are indicated by data concerning employment, earnings, housing accommodation, etc. (especially when supplemented by consumption and price data). Changing social and economic conditions are reflected by the movement of population from rural districts to urban municipalities and, vice versa, by the growth of industry, the numbers and status of farm mortgages, taxes and a hundred and one other factors. Many other items of information upon which the Government must depend to conduct the business of the country are made available by this periodical stocktaking of the people.

History of the Census in Canada.—In 1666, Talon the Intendant of New France took an official census of the Colony for the purpose of measuring the increase in numbers that had taken place since the founding of Quebec by Champlain in 1608. These figures are, however, of historical interest rather than accurate census data. (For further details, see Census of Canada, 1931, Vol. I, pp. 133-153.)

Similar censuses of New France, which grew in detail, were taken no less than thirty-six times during the years intervening between 1666 and 1739 and many more times from that date to the close of the French régime in 1763. During the following years (see the 1942 Year Book, p. 83) a series of less elaborate reports supervened, with censuses appearing at irregular intervals, until the year 1841 when an Act was passed on September 18, after the union of Upper and Lower Canada, which provided that a census should be taken in the year 1842 and every fifth year thereafter. Under this Act the Census of Upper Canada only was taken: the Act was amended in 1842 and a census of Lower Canada was taken in 1844. (See Census of Canada, 1931, Vol. I, p. 36.)

In 1847 legislation was passed creating a Board of Registration and Statistics which took a census of Upper Canada in 1848 and a general census in 1850.

In 1851 Royal Assent was given to an Act to provide more effectually for the taking of the census in 1852 (these figures were later linked with those taken by the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1851, and in Prince Edward Island in 1848 to give reasonably comparable totals, *circa* 1851, for these sections of British North America), 1861 and every tenth year thereafter. An unbroken series of census records, taken at regular decennial periods, is therefore available for all provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada over a period of ninety years. With the opening up of settlement in the three western provinces, immigration developed on such a scale that an Act was passed in 1918 providing that a census of population and agriculture be taken in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1926 and every tenth year thereafter. Thus censuses of the Prairie Provinces are now taken quinquennially and of the Dominion as a whole decennially. The primary purpose of the former is to fix the basis for subsidies payable on a per capita basis to the western provinces by the Dominion Government. (See Census Legislation in Canada, Census of Canada, Vol. I, 1931, p. 29; or Statutes 49 Vic., c. 46, s. 5; 4-5 Ed. VII, c. 3, s. 18B; 4-5 Ed. VII, c. 42, s. 18B.)

Growth of Population in Canada.—A brief résumé of the population history of Canada from the first census in 1666, when it numbered 3,215 persons, to the eighth Dominion census of 1941, when the figure was 11,506,655, places Canada among the leading countries of the British Empire in the rate of population growth.