

The two basic stocks of the Canadian people are the French and the English: historically the French is much the older (see under "Growth of Population", p. 77) and, excepting for the Census of 1921, has exceeded in numbers any one of the basic British Isles stocks.

It will be seen from Table 19 that, at the time of Confederation, the largest of the groups comprising the British Isles races was the Irish and that the Irish and the Scottish together outnumbered the English by almost two to one. The English, however, exceeded the Irish after 1881, while the Scottish took second place after 1911. Those of Irish origin from 1881 to 1901, increased only 3·3 p.c.: the smaller proportion of Irish to English and Scottish was due not alone to a decline in immigration but to their emigration from Canada. The relative gains from 1911 to 1921 of the British Isles races as a group brought them to over one-half (55·4 p.c.) of the total population. The English (with 28·96 p.c.) ranked first in 1921 of all races in Canada, the French were second (27·9 p.c.), the Scottish were third (13·35 p.c.), and the Irish fourth (12·61 p.c.). In 1931 the French again assumed the premier position and the English ranked second, outnumbered by 187,000, yet there were only 54 French to every 100 persons of English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh descent combined. There was a relative reduction in the British Isles races from 57·03 p.c. of the total population in 1901 to 49·7 p.c. in 1941. The causes for this relative decrease were mainly: declining immigration from the British Isles, emigration to the United States of the Anglo-Saxons, repatriation of large numbers of French Canadians from the United States, and the generally higher rate of increase on the part of the French as compared with the various Anglo-Saxon peoples. The factors of immigration and emigration are transitory and change rapidly but the rate of increase has been persistently favourable to the French.

For the British Isles races the inter-decennial increases have fallen consistently from 1911 to 1941. Between 1911 and 1921 the increase was 869,657; for the following decade it was 512,333; and from 1931 to 1941, 334,833.

The British Isles and French groups taken together now constitute 80 p.c. of the population as was the case in 1931; this compares with 83 p.c. in 1921, and 84 p.c. in 1911, 88 p.c. in 1901, 89 p.c. in 1881 and no less than 92 p.c. in 1871. This pronounced decline has been due, in the main, to immigration of Continental Europeans to Canada during the past 40 years.

From the beginning of this century the proportion of the European races (other than the French) increased from 8·53 p.c. in 1901 to 17·76 p.c. in 1941. The rate was such as to more than double the numbers of the European stocks in one decade (1901–11) and was much higher for specific origins: for instance the Belgians and Scandinavians trebled; the Jews and Italians increased more than fourfold; the Poles and Finns, respectively, were numerically five and six times stronger in 1911 than in 1901.

The second decade of the century showed declining rates of growth; this period included three years of the heaviest immigration in the history of the Dominion and four years of war. The net result was that the immigrant European stocks increased from 944,783 to 1,247,103 or 32 p.c. There were certain exceptions where the rates recorded for 1921 exceeded those for the previous decade.

Several significant changes occurred in the third and fourth decade, the increase for the European stocks, other than British and French, rose from 1,247,103 in 1921 to 2,043,926 in 1941 or by 63·9 p.c. With the resumption of moderate immi-