

At the 1941 Census 1,898,347 persons resident in Canada at the date of the Census reported themselves as having come from outside the Dominion—824,060 from the British Isles, 61,687 from the United States, etc. Adding together inter-provincial movement and movement from outside, a total movement of 3,207,291 was reported.

In order to get a complete picture of the movement of population, it would, of course, be necessary to show for each province the data shown above for Canada and with this the reader would see exactly from which provinces and to which provinces the movement had taken place. The reader is referred for such provincial information to the more detailed census publications.

### Section 10.—Languages and Mother Tongues

Official languages are not to be confused with mother tongues. Mother tongue, being used in the home, is natural to a person even if he is unable to speak it on account of youth, infirmity or for some other reason, whereas the official language or languages are those recognized by statute for general use. Thus the immigrants to a new country bring with them their mother tongues and continue to use them in their homes, but these have no relation to the official languages in the country of their adoption.

Canada is officially bilingual, the two languages being English and French. In the Census of 1941, 1,474,009 persons were reported as speaking both the official languages, 7,735,486 speaking English only of the two official languages, 2,181,746 speaking French only of the two official languages and 115,414 as unable to speak either English or French.

Table 44 shows the extent to which the people of foreign origin have related themselves to the languages spoken by those of British and French origins in Canada. Comparable data for the English language alone is shown in the first and third columns of Table 45. The public school system is responsible for most of the progress. It is true that many of the adult immigrants, especially in urban parts, do acquire a working knowledge of one or other of the official languages, provided they are not too old to do so and they have an adequate economic or other incentive.\*

The percentages in this table apply to the total population of each origin. All children in Canada are required by law to attend school to at least 14 years of age and teaching in the schools is carried on in either English or French. Consequently, in an origin group with high fertility the percentage unable to speak either of the basic languages of the country may be expected to decline with a fair degree of rapidity provided current immigration is not heavy.

Persons of Scandinavian origin speak either English or French in the largest proportions. Most of them speak English; comparatively few speak French. The Germans followed the Danes, Norwegians and Swedes, with only a slightly larger percentage unable to speak either of the basic languages.

Mother tongues spoken are dealt with in Table 46 which shows that 1,663,712 persons did not have either English or French as a mother tongue. The largest number of persons speaking a foreign language as a mother tongue is in Ontario with 425,189, but the highest percentage is in Saskatchewan with 39 p.c.

\* Were the data tabulated by five-year age groups, one would find ample statistical support for this statement.