

CHAPTER III.—POPULATION*

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. HISTORY OF THE CENSUS.....	146	SECTION 10. ORIGINS.....	164
SECTION 2. GROWTH OF THE POPULATION....	149	SECTION 11. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.....	165
SECTION 3. INTERCENSAL ESTIMATES AND MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.....	150	SECTION 12. COUNTRIES OF BIRTH.....	166
SECTION 4. DENSITY OF POPULATION.....	152	SECTION 13. LANGUAGES AND MOTHER TONGUES.....	166
SECTION 5. RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION..	153	SECTION 14. DWELLINGS, HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES.....	167
SECTION 6. POPULATION OF COUNTIES AND CENSUS DIVISIONS.....	153	SECTION 15. THE BLIND AND DEAF POPULA- TION.....	169
SECTION 7. POPULATION OF INCORPORATED URBAN CENTRES.....	153	SECTION 16. THE INDIANS AND ESKIMOS OF CANADA.....	170
SECTION 8. SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION.....	161	SECTION 17. STATISTICS OF WORLD POPULA- TION.....	175
SECTION 9. MARITAL STATUS.....	163		

NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

This Chapter presents only a summary of the voluminous data recorded by the Census. More detailed information and extended analyses are published in the Census volumes and reports which are obtainable from the Queen's Printer or the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. A list of such publications and their prices is available on request.

Section 1.—History of the Census

In 1666 Talon, the Intendant of New France, took an official census of the colony for the purpose of measuring the increase in population that had taken place since the founding of Quebec by Champlain in 1608. Thus to that primitive St. Lawrence colony belongs the credit for the first census of population in the modern meaning of the term and the institution of what is today one of the principal instruments of public administration in every civilized community. That enumeration, which recorded a total of 3,215 persons, included the name, age, sex, marital status and occupation of each person in his place of abode. The great Intendant himself carried out a considerable part of the enumeration, "visiting from door to door all the habitations of Mont Réal, Trois Rivières, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, and all places above Quebec". The following year, 1667 the census was repeated and to the same inquiries were added the areas under cultivation and the numbers of cattle and sheep.

Censuses of New France were taken no less than thirty-seven times in all during the period 1666 to 1739, as well as nine partial censuses and many more enumerations from that date to the end of the French régime in 1763. The scope of the census widened even during this early period. Each census brought a few new inquiries until at the end of the French period the census ascertained, along with the original information, the areas under cultivation and under pasture, the production of wheat, barley, oats, peas, corn, flax, hemp, tobacco and the number of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. In addition the numbers of public buildings, churches, grist mills and sawmills were recorded and the numbers of firearms and swords.

* Revised in the Census (Demography) Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.