

the four Western provinces an increase of population from 1,720,601 to 2,480,664 or 44.2 per cent, while the five Eastern provinces increased from 5,471,023 to 6,295,189, an increase of 824,166 persons, which, though absolutely larger than the figure for the West, constitutes an increase of only 15 per cent over the 1911 population. The same conclusion may be deduced from Table 3, which shows that while in 1871 only 2.96 per cent and in 1881 only 3.88 per cent of the population of the country dwelt west of the Lake of the Woods, the percentage in 1891 was 7.24, in 1901, 12.02, in 1911, 24.09 and in 1921, 28.37 per cent. On the other hand, the three easternmost Maritime provinces, which in 1871 contained 20.80 per cent of the population of the Dominion, had in 1881, 20.14 per cent, in 1891, 18.22 per cent, in 1901, 16.64 per cent, in 1911, 13.01 per cent, and in 1921 only 11.38 per cent of the population. Ontario and Quebec—the old pre-Confederation Province of Canada—still remain the chief centre of population, their population being in 1921 60.25 per cent of the total as compared with 76.24 per cent in 1871, 75.98 per cent in 1881, 74.54 per cent in 1891, 71.34 per cent in 1901, and 62.90 per cent in 1911. In other words, the net result of the half century has been that in 1921 only three-fifths of the population of the Dominion lived in these provinces as compared with more than three-fourths in 1871.

The absolute and percentage increases of population by provinces and territories are shown for the last decade in Table 4, which shows that Alberta and Saskatchewan increased proportionately most rapidly during the period, followed by British Columbia and Manitoba. Ontario and Quebec showed a fair percentage of increase and the Maritimes a small one, while Prince Edward Island—an almost purely agricultural province—and the Yukon—a mining camp—showed a decline in population. Absolute increases since 1871 are shown by decades in Table 5, and percentage increases since 1871 by decades in Table 6.

2.—Population of Canada by Provinces and Territories in the Census years 1871 to 1921.

Provinces.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921. ✓
Prince Edward Island.....	94,021	108,891	109,078	103,259	93,728	88,615
Nova Scotia.....	387,800	440,572	450,396	459,574	492,338	523,337
New Brunswick.....	285,594	321,233	321,263	331,120	351,889	387,876
Quebec.....	1,191,516	1,359,027	1,488,535	1,648,898	2,005,776 ²	2,361,199
Ontario.....	1,620,851	1,926,922	2,114,321	2,182,947	2,527,292 ²	2,935,662
Manitoba.....	25,228	62,260	152,506	255,211	461,394 ²	610,118
Saskatchewan.....	—	—	—	91,279	492,432	757,510
Alberta.....	—	—	—	73,022	374,285 ³	588,454
British Columbia.....	36,247	49,459	98,173	178,657	392,480	524,582
Yukon Territory.....	—	—	—	27,219	8,512	4,157
Northwest Territories ⁴	48,000	56,446	98,967	20,129	6,507 ²	7,988
Royal Canadian Navy.....	—	—	—	—	—	485
Total.....	3,689,257	4,324,510	4,833,239	5,371,315	7,206,643	8,788,483

¹ The population of the Prairie Provinces, according to the quinquennial census of 1916, is given on page 113. ² As corrected as a result of the Extension of Boundaries Act, 1912. ³ As corrected by transfer of population of Fort Smith (368) to Northwest Territories. ⁴ The decrease shown in the population of the Northwest Territories after 1891 is due to the separation therefrom of vast areas to form Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory, and to extend the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.