

While a summary comparison between urbanization in Canada in 1921 and in the United States in 1920 would lead us to the conclusion that our country, though far less densely peopled than the United States, had an almost equally large percentage of its population in urban communities, viz., 49.52 per cent in Canada as compared with 51.4 per cent in the United States, the fact that in the United States inhabitants of places having under 2,500 population are included with rural population, while in Canada the inhabitants of many places with less than 100 population are classed as urban, must be taken into account. A fairer basis of comparison is secured if the same population limits are taken for both countries, as may be done by using Table 30. Thus, at the census of 1920, the United States had 25.9 p.c. of its population resident in cities of 100,000 and over, while Canada in 1921 had only 18.87 p.c. of its population in such places. The United States had an additional 16.4 p.c. of its population residing in cities of between 10,000 and 100,000 population, and 4.7 p.c. in cities and towns of 5,000 to 10,000, while Canada had in cities of these categories only 13.32 p.c., and 4.36 p.c. respectively of its population. Thus, taking all places of 5,000 and over—the lowest population for which comparative figures are readily available—47 p.c. of the population of the United States resided in such places as compared with 36.55 p.c. of the population of Canada, showing the much higher degree of urbanization which has been reached in the United States—a natural thing in an older settled and more densely peopled country.

On the basis of the census classification, it is apparent from Table 28 that in the last decade, as in the previous one, urban communities absorbed somewhat over two-thirds of the total increase in population, with the result that the urban population of Canada was in 1921 nearly equal to the rural. Out of every 1,000 persons in the country, 505 were resident, on June 1, 1921, in rural and 495 in urban communities, as compared with 545 in rural and 455 in urban communities on June 1, 1911, 625 in rural and 375 in urban communities in 1901, and 682 in rural and 318 in urban communities in 1891.

From Table 30, showing the distribution of urban population in Canada by size of cities and towns, it becomes evident that for the first time in its census history Canada possesses cities of more than half a million population. These are Montreal and Toronto, with 618,506 and 521,893 inhabitants respectively, the former having in its neighbourhood several "satellite" cities, Verdun, Westmount, Lachine, Outremont, which, with other smaller towns in its vicinity, bring the population of "Greater Montreal" to the 700,000 mark. No other city has attained the 200,000 mark, but during the past decade Hamilton and Ottawa have been added to Winnipeg and Vancouver as cities of over 100,000 population, while Quebec, which in 1911 was, together with Hamilton and Ottawa, in the 50,000 to 100,000 class, has been joined in that class, though at a considerable interval, by Calgary, London, Edmonton and Halifax. Details of the population of these and other smaller cities and towns of 5,000 and over, are given by censuses from 1871 to 1921 in Table 32, while the populations of urban communities having a population of from 1,000 to 5,000 in 1921 are given for 1901, 1911 and 1921 in Table 33.