

Lower Canada was approximately 163,000, whilst the newly constituted province of Upper Canada under Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe numbered perhaps 15,000, and the addition of the maritime colonies brought the total to well over 200,000. A decade later Canada began the nineteenth century with a population of probably not less than 250,000 or 260,000. Subsequent censuses gave the populations of the different colonies as follows: Upper Canada (1824) 150,066, (1840) 432,159; Lower Canada (1822) 427,465, (1844) 697,084; New Brunswick (1824) 74,176, (1840) 156,162; Nova Scotia (1817) 81,351, (1838) 202,575; Prince Edward Island (1822) 24,600, (1841) 47,042.¹

The policy of desultory census-taking was ended in 1847 by an Act of the Canadian Legislature creating a "Board of Registration and Statistics" with instructions "to collect statistics and adopt measures for disseminating or publishing the same" and providing also for a decennial census. The first census thereunder was taken in 1851 and, as similar censuses were taken by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the same year, we have a regular measure of population growth in Canada over the past 80 years. The fifties saw a very rapid development, especially in Ontario, whilst the sixties showed only less substantial gains. In the years following Confederation there was a spurt, the increase between 1871 and 1881 (which included several lean years towards the end) being 635,553, or 17·23 p.c. In neither of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, however, was this record equalled either absolutely or relatively, the gains in each being under 550,000, or 12 p.c. With the end of the century the population of Canada had reached approximately five and a third millions, or twenty times that of 1800. It has increased by five millions in the past thirty years.

Expansion in the Twentieth Century.—It is within the confines of the present century that the most spectacular expansion of the Canadian population has taken place. The outstanding feature was, of course, the opening to settlement of the "last best West". The unorganized territories of British North America had been ceded to the Dominion soon after Confederation, and the West had been tapped and traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the eighties and nineties. But though western population was doubled in each of these decades, it was only with the launching of a large-scale immigration movement after 1900 that western settlement and production became a first-rate economic factor. Simultaneously an almost equally striking development occurred in the industrial centres of Eastern Canada, which formed the immediate basis for the move upon the West. At the back, of course, was the heavy inflow of British and other capital—a total of one and a half billions of dollars between 1900 and 1912—which went to finance the large constructive undertakings (chiefly railway, municipal and industrial) which characterized the movement, and which represented at bottom the traditional policy of England in search of cheap and abundant food for her workshop population. The years 1901 to 1911, in brief, form the *decas mirabilis* of Canadian expansion. The immigration movement just mentioned, which had previously run well under 50,000 per annum, rose rapidly to over five times that volume, eventually passing 400,000 in a single year. In the ten years between 1901 and 1911 it exceeded 1,800,000, and though at least a third of these were lost (partly in the return to Europe of labour temporarily attracted by the railway and other developments in progress, and partly in the never-ceasing and natural "drag" of the United States upon a virile and less wealthy people), it formed the chief factor in the gain of 34 p.c. which

¹ A résumé of the results of all the censuses taken in Canada between 1666 and 1861 was published as Vol. IV of the census of 1871.