

the total population of Canada registered in that decade, and which was larger than the relative growth of any other country during the same period. The movement was continued and even intensified in the first three years of the second decade of the century, after which a recession set in to which the outbreak of war gave a new and wholly unexpected turn. Nevertheless the decade which closed with the census of 1921 showed over 1,800,000 immigrant arrivals in Canada, and, though the proportionate loss of these was very heavy (probably as much as two-thirds), Canada's relative gain for the decade was again among the largest in the world.

**Organization for the Census of 1931.**—As of June 1, 1931, a new census of the Dominion was taken. The complex nature of the task and the great and growing importance of census results in the general machinery of government combined to make the operation one of paramount importance.

The complete co-operation of the people is essential to a good census and to this end a broad educational campaign was undertaken in which the radio, for the first time, played a part as a means of conveying an idea of the scope, methods and purpose of the census and its place in statistical and general administration. In a country like Canada where approximately one-third of the gainfully occupied population is employed in agriculture, the most expensive part of the census organization is that covering the thinly settled rural districts and it is advisable that, when once the large organization which is necessary has been created, it be made the most of. The people's institutions and offices as well as the people themselves were subjects of measurement.

The nucleus of the organization existed in the small permanent staff constituting the Census Branch of the Bureau of Statistics. This branch maintains connection between census and census, so that experience is continuous and cumulative. It makes the detailed plans for taking the census and arranges for the necessary expansion of the personnel as required. In planning the field work the country was first divided into "Census Districts" each in charge of a "Census Commissioner". Districts were further divided into sub-districts varying in population from 600 to 800 persons in rural localities, and from 1,200 to 1,800 in urban centres. A sub-district was the territory allotted to a "Census Enumerator" who conducted the house-to-house or farm-to-farm canvass.

The 1931 census employed 254 commissioners and upwards of 14,000 enumerators. The commissioners were appointed by the Minister and instructed by an officer of the Bureau; on the other hand the enumerators were appointed and instructed by the commissioners. All field officers were paid for the most part on a "piece" basis and were required to pass a practical test in the work before appointment.

For the actual compilation work an extra temporary staff of between 700 and 800 clerks was engaged at Ottawa. All compilation was done by machinery. The numerous facts obtained for each individual were punched, by location, on a specially designed card. The sorting, counting and recording was then done mechanically.

While, as regards the field covered, the 1931 census followed the main lines of its predecessors, it had several important new features. Additional information was obtained with regard to institutions such as hospitals, asylums, reformatories, child-welfare, etc., which will aid in the solution of social problems that are becoming more pressing each year (See Chapter XXVI). The unemployment situation also received special attention, and new data regarding wholesale and retail trading activities were gathered for the first time in Canada with the purpose of giving a bird's-eye view of the great problem of distribution. The agricultural section of