

the census was also improved, commensurate with the part played by this all-important basic industry. At the present time other countries both in Europe and America are putting forth strenuous efforts to ensure more comprehensive and accurate censuses and a tendency to increase the frequency of census taking, due to the increasing complexity of modern life, the greater demands on Governments, and the great need for comprehensive economic information upon which to base business and commercial policies, is noticeable.

Results of the Census of 1931.—According to the final results of the 1931 census, the total population of the Dominion on June 1, 1931, was 10,374,196, as compared with 8,787,949 on June 1, 1921, an increase of 1,586,247 or 18.05 p.c. in the decade, as compared with 21.94 p.c. and 34.17 p.c. during the decades 1911 to 1921 and 1901 to 1911 respectively.

During the decade 1911-21 the countries which comprise the British Empire, and more especially the United States, which was only in the war for nineteen months as against Canada's fifty-two, suffered less in actual loss of life from the war and its consequences than the continental countries of Europe. None of these declined in population during the period, as many continental European countries did. Their percentage increases, however, were in almost all cases lower than in the previous decade. Thus the population of England and Wales increased between 1911 and 1921 only from 36,070,492 to 37,885,242, or 5.0 p.c., as compared with an increase of 10.9 p.c. in the previous decade; Scotland, again, increased only from 4,760,904 to 4,882,497, or 2.6 p.c., as compared with 6.5 p.c. between 1901 and 1911. Nor has this retardation of increase been much improved in the decade 1921-31, for the increase in England and Wales during these years was but 5.4 p.c. and Scotland actually showed a decrease of 0.8 p.c. Of the overseas Dominions, New Zealand, according to the latest official estimate (the census of 1931 was postponed), increased her population from 1,218,913 to 1,510,940 or by nearly 24 p.c. for the decade ended 1931, as compared with 20.9 p.c. and 30.5 p.c. respectively for the decades ended 1921 and 1911. In the case of the white population of South Africa, much the same condition obtains. The Commonwealth of Australia, the only Dominion to grow more rapidly in the second decade of the twentieth century than in the first, increased from 4,455,005 in 1911 to 5,435,734 in 1921 or by 22.01 p.c. as compared with 18.05 p.c. for the previous decade and 19.4 p.c. for the most recent decade 1921-31 (based on the latest official population estimate of 6,488,707 for 1931¹). The population of the continental United States increased between 1920 and 1930 from 105,710,620 to 122,775,046, an increase of 16.1 p.c., as compared with 14.9 p.c. in the decade 1910-20 and 21 p.c. in the decade 1900-10.

Considering now the movement of population within the Dominion of Canada itself, it is evident from Table 1 that in this country, as formerly in the United States, there is a distinct movement of population from East to West. In the decade from 1911 to 1921 this was clearly apparent, for the four western provinces then increased their population by no less than 44 p.c. and for the decade 1921-31 the increase was from 2,480,864 to 3,047,792, or 22.86 p.c. From 1921 to 1931 the five eastern provinces increased from 6,294,655 to 7,315,041, an increase of 1,020,386 persons, which, though absolutely larger than the figure for the West, constitutes an increase of only 16.2 p.c. over the 1921 population. The same conclusion may be deduced from Table 2, which shows that while in 1871 only 2.96 p.c. and in 1881 only 3.88 p.c. 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; in 1921, 28.37; and in 1931, 29.49.

¹ As in the case of New Zealand the census of 1931 was postponed.