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Census of British Empire. A Census of the British Empire for year 1901, was recently laid before the Local Government Board, the salient features of which are given in leading London journals.

The Census shows that on or about April 1, in 1901, the area of the Empire was 11,908,378 square miles, and the population 398,401,704. These aggregates form a striking contrast to the figures for the United Kingdom, which are included in them, the area of the latter being 121,089 square miles, and its population 41,458,721. The reports from which the tables appended to the main report have been derived range, it is stated, from a ten-page pamphlet concerning the 2253 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands to an elaborate review extending to more than 60 volumes dealing with the manifold races of our Indian Empire, the population of which approaches 295 million persons, speaking no fewer than 147 distinct vernacular languages. At the time of the census of 1861 the Empire comprised, in round numbers, 8½ millions of square miles; in the next two decennial periods no important territorial addition took place, but between 1881 and 1891 the extensions in the East Indies and in our Indian Dependency and the great annexations of territory in Africa added about two millions of square miles. Since 1891 further expansions have occurred, principally in Africa and in Asia, raising the grand total as nearly as can be ascertained to 11,908,378 square miles, comprising more than one-fifth of the land surface of the globe. In 1861 the population of the Empire, inclusive of the Indian feudatory States, was, as far as can be ascertained, about 250 millions; in 1871 it had risen to nearly 283 millions; in 1881 to nearly 310 millions; in 1891, largely through acquisitions of territory, to more than 381 millions; and in 1901 to nearly 400 millions. Broadly speaking, says the report, the 398 millions within the Empire may be divided into two classes: "Whites," numbering, approximately, 54 millions, or 13.6 per cent. of the total, and "coloured" population, numbering about 344 millions. Of the 344 millions of coloured population over 205 millions were either natives of India or descendants of Indian emigrants.

A Great British Bank. We are favoured by a report of the directors of Lloyd's Bank, which was held at Birmingham in January last.

The paid-up capital is given as \$17,758,000, and reserve fund \$13,000,000. The advances to customers are stated at \$150,074,000, and the total assets \$340,380,000. The net profit for the year was \$3,541,800, out of which an interim dividend at rate of 17½ p.c. was paid for half-year to 30th June last, and a dividend for second half-year at the rate of 18¾ p.c. has since been paid.

This bank has acquired, by purchase or amalgamation, 42 banks, a number of them of high standing, as Barnett, Heares & Co., Bosanquet, Salt & Co., Cunliffes, Brooks & Co., which stood high in the world of British banking.

Inviting them Back. The policy-holders of one of the largest life offices in the United States who are believed to have abandoned their policies owing to the distrust created by the Armstrong Committee's report, are being offered specially favourable terms to induce them to renew their policies.

Fires in London. The report of the London Fire Brigade for 1905, gives 10 fires as the daily average in the "Metropolis." They were the cause of 100 lives being lost last year. The property insured in London is covered by insurance to amount of \$5,115,207,350, and the expenditure on the fire brigade amounts to \$1,575,000.

Too Ambitious. The Special Committee of the Trustees of the Mutual Life of New York made its report on 31st ult. One paragraph reads: "The real purpose of the company's organization, viz., to furnish to its members absolutely safe insurance at the lowest possible cost, seems to have given place to this ambition for power and influence in the business and financial world." This policy is not being pursued by the present Trustees.