

Organization for Taking the Census

To carry out this far-flung investigation, and to reduce its results to comprehensible and usable form, necessarily requires a large organization. Its nucleus exists in a small permanent staff constituting one of the branches of the Bureau of Statistics. This branch maintains connection between census and census, so that experience is continuous and cumulative. This organization has been expanded for the planning of the forthcoming Census by the creation of a Census Executive Committee, into which have been drawn other senior officers of the Bureau with appropriate administrative or technical skills, besides those of the Bureau's Demography (Census) Division.

In planning the field work the country is divided first into census districts, each of which is placed in charge of a census commissioner. There are approximately 260 of these census districts. Each district is then subdivided into subdistricts, varying in population from 600 to 800 in rural localities and from 1,000 to 1,500 in urban areas. The subdistricts, which number approximately 18,000, are allotted to census enumerators. These are the officials who go from door to door collecting the information required by the census. They are the only officials with whom the general public comes in direct contact. Their work is supervised by some 850 field supervisors.

Since one object of the census is to determine Parliamentary representation, the Act directs that the census districts and subdistricts shall correspond, respectively, "as nearly as may be, with the electoral divisions and subdivisions for the time being" i.e. with the federal constituencies and polling subdivisions.

Census commissioners will be appointed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce with the assistance of the Members of Parliament, and will be instructed by officers of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Working under the direction of the commissioners will be a number of field supervisors each responsible for a group of subdistricts. The supervisors will train the enumerators in their areas and give detailed supervision to their work. The enumerators will be recommended by the Commissioners on the basis of their suitability. Supervisors and enumerators are required to pass a practical test in the work before appointment. All field officers are paid, for the most part, on a piece work basis, i.e., according to the population, farms, etc., enumerated.

For a census that covers half a continent, embracing the most varied conditions of nature and settlement, uniformity of plan is clearly impossible. In Labrador, the northern parts of the Prairie Provinces, the Eastern Arctic, certain areas of Quebec and the remote parts of the North, the Census will be taken by the R.C.M.P. field officials of the Department of Resources and Development and of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Practically every known means of locomotion will be used. Some enumerators will, of course, go on foot and others will use automobiles. In the far north, river steamers and dog sleds will be employed and to reach many of the settlements in Newfoundland it will be necessary to