

CENSUS IS NOT LIKELY TO SHOW NINE MILLIONS

What Is Back of Army of Enumerators?

Idea That Government Wants Returns in Quickly So As To Be Ready With a Distribution Bill.

(Special to The Times.)
Ottawa, Ont., March 18.—On the basis of the \$1,620,000 set aside in the estimates to pay the expenses of the decennial census to begin on June 1 next, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics evidently expects the total cost to be about eighteen cents for every man, woman and child in the dominion if the population proves to be the nine millions confidently predicted by many government officials.

The fact that the government has more than doubled the number of census enumerators used in 1911 does not necessarily mean that the cost will be greater. It may be intended to give half the area given to each enumerator in 1911 and thus to secure whatever political value there may be in spreading the money over twice the number of workers. The pay is so much for every name about which information is obtained, with an allowance per hundred names, differing with the various provinces for the expenses of driving.

The fact that Sir George Foster spoke of 24,000 enumerators to be appointed to take the census throughout the dominion is taken here to mean that the government intends to be prepared against the contingency of an election by having the census returns brought in much more quickly than at other census periods and thus give the government experts an opportunity to lay their plans for the next gerrymander bill which would come in the autumn if political exigencies should demand it. Experience in other census periods shows that early returns for such a purpose can be secured.

In 1901, with only 4,304 enumerators, 3,644 of these made their returns in three months. In 1901, of 8,847 enumerators, 7,284 enumerators had their returns in within three months, and in 1911 nearly all details concerning the 7,204,388 persons then inhabiting Canada had come in inside of three months. In June twenty-seven per cent. of the reports were made, in July sixty per cent. of the reports were made, and in August eight per cent. of the reports were made, leaving very few reports still to come in, and these mostly from unorganized territories. With the great force which the minister of trade and commerce indicated the government would place in the field, all details they need for their work should be in early in August.

At a session called in September or October, a redistribution bill could be passed, but such a session would be called only if the government planned such measures in its redistribution that it would need all its dole majority to pull them over.

Census Questions.
The work which the enumerators have to do this year is much easier to understand than formerly, even though the questions are more comprehensive. In 1891 the average number of persons recorded by each enumerator with nine schedules to fill out and 210 questions to get answers for, was 1,110.

In 1901 with eleven schedules and 351 questions to get filled out the average number recorded per enumerator was 604. In 1911 with thirteen schedules and 549 questions to get answered the average number recorded was 748. This year with only four schedules and questions which are greatly reduced in number because the fewer number of schedules allowed duplicate questions which appeared on the schedules of former census periods to be eliminated, the average number recorded by each of the 24,000 enumerators spoken of by Sir George would be only 973 if the population reaches nine millions, which is doubtful. There are thirty-six questions in the population schedule. In 1911 agricultural statistics were taken on four schedules and at this census on one.

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As annual census figures are now obtained regarding agriculture, mining, fishing, mortality and industry, it was possible to reduce the schedules and questions greatly. The four schedules concerning first population, with a supplementary schedule on the blind, dumb, physical defective, etc.; second, the agriculture schedule with name of every farm, its owners, and details concerning it; a third, the census of animals not on farms but in towns and cities. One sheet contains all the questions about agriculture, where in the last census four sheets were used.

The pay to enumerators is five cents for every name on the schedule, thirty cents for details of every farm, ten cents for every entry concerning animals and gardens in cities and towns, \$4.50 in central Canada and the maritime provinces for every hundred names in lieu of expenses for horse hire, etc.; \$8 per hundred in the prairie provinces and more in British Columbia.

If the great world war had never occurred Canada would certainly have now a population of nine and a half millions. As it is, the total will be much under nine millions. It is true that the three prairie provinces showed an increase of thirty per cent at the 1918 western census, but most of that was obtained before August, 1918. The flow westward was resumed in 1919, but the result of the census will not come up to western hopes.

GIRL OF FIVE VOTES.

Professor Shows Chaos of Voting Lists.

One of the incidents of the voting was the appearance at a polling station of a girl of five years. Nancy Roberts, daughter of Professor Stanley Roberts, of University College, Aberystwyth, says in an English despatch.

She was taken to the polling station by her parents, who satisfied the presiding officer as to her identity, and, her name being on the register, she was permitted to vote.

"We took her along by way of protest against the state of the register," said Professor Roberts. "Last year my own name was omitted, while my wife's appeared, and many of my colleagues and a good many ex-service men find that they are not on the register."

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