

CENSUS OF 1890-91.

INTRODUCTION.

I.

The Census of 1890-91, the third since the passing of the British North America Act (1867), has been made under the authority of the "Census Act," 42 Victoria, chap. XXI. and Revised Statutes, 1886, chap. 59.

There will be an introduction and an index to each volume of this report. The information regarding population and property is a statement of facts existing on the 5th day of April, 1891, that day having been selected by the several authorities throughout the Empire as census day. The information relating to the census year is for the twelve months dating from the 6th day of April, 1890.

The system adopted for the enumeration of the population is that known as the *de jure* plan, which is the same system as that employed in the previous Census takings of Canada. A change was made in one important particular in taking the Census of 1891; a time-limit was for the first time introduced. The directions to the enumerators were as follows: "As considerable doubt has been expressed respecting the accuracy of returns where no time-limit is established, it is proposed to make a change in this regard for the Census of 1891. There are many persons who are absent from Canada about whose right to be counted in our Census there is no doubt. Thus, seamen away for one, two or three years, whose wives and families are in Canada and whose domicile, consequently, is in Canada, should be taken by the enumerator. In the same way, children abroad for their education, though absent for two or more years are to be taken with their parents. There is, however, a large class of persons who are away from Canada about whom their parents may reasonably be in doubt whether it is their purpose to return to Canada. In these cases, after exhausting inquiry without satisfactory result, the enumerator is to ask: 'Have these persons been away for twelve months?' If the answer is 'Yes,' then these are not to be taken in the Census, the presumption being that they have abandoned Canada and settled elsewhere. The same rule will hold good in cases where members of a family have left one province and settled in another."

The directions respecting Domestic Servants were framed with great care so as to prevent duplication of names arising from persons in this class being taken in their parents' homes and also in the homes of their employers.

In every particular, care was taken to avoid the danger of duplication to which the *de jure* system is specially liable.

II.

In the absence of a permanent staff available for Census purposes, such for instance, as that which forms part of the Registrar General's Department, in England, it was necessary to organize in every detail a special staff, and to adopt a peculiar mode of