

Census Bulletin, No. 5.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OTTAWA, February, 1892.

Bulletin No. 5 relates to the population of the sub-districts of Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia.

The population of these sub-districts is given according to the electoral divisions established by the Redistribution Act of 1892.

The Census of 1881 gave the population of Manitoba at 65,954. Included in this, however, were 3,694 persons whose census home was subsequently declared to be in Ontario by the Privy Council decision just mentioned.

Taking the actual population of Manitoba as at present bounded at 62,260 in 1881, the increase in ten years has been 90,245 or nearly 145 per cent.

As mentioned in former bulletins, the census of 1891 was much more strictly taken than previous ones, especially as to absentees and servants. The time limit, applied to the former in 1891 for the first time, prevented the addition of many names, that under the system in vogue in 1881 were included in the population. The rules regulating the taking of servants, varied from those in force in 1881, and reduced to a minimum the danger of duplication, which is the great evil to be guarded against in a *de jure* census, such as that taken in Canada. These two changes, while bringing down the population to the "rock bottom" fact, rendered the figures for comparison with 1881, somewhat disappointing, as the tendency of the rules of 1891 was to cut off many persons who under those of 1881 would have been included in the population figures of the Census recently taken.

The Province of Manitoba does not appear to have suffered on account of the decrease of the Indian population as much as the other Western Provinces, in the comparison of 1891 with the previous census taking.

While the three Provisional Provinces have 7,454 fewer Indians within their borders than in 1885, Manitoba has suffered a decrease of only 360 Indians since 1886.

Notwithstanding the decrease of the Indian population in the four provisional districts entitled to representation in the Federal Parliament, the increase in population has been nearly 60 per cent. It may fairly be assumed that the effort to establish centres of population through the vast region of the Northwest has met with fair success.

For the first time the whole of the vast area of these provisional districts was traversed by the enumerators, entailing considerable extra expense.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In British Columbia doubts have been raised as to the accuracy of the count.

The population has increased from 49,459 in 1881 to 97,612 in 1891, with one region to hear from, which will increase the figure to a small extent. This increase is in the face of the fact that the Indian population shows a decided tendency to decrease. It will be found to be in the neighborhood of 98 per cent., a very good rate of increase.

Tested by any of the special tests by which the accuracy of a census is tried, the British Columbian returns of population appear to be accurate.

The number of families has increased by exactly the same percentage as the number of inhabitants.

The number of habitations occupied has increased by 103 per cent against an increase of 98 per cent. in the number of families. The difference is easily accounted for, being due to the greater prosperity of the country, causing less crowding. These tests—the best that can be applied—appear to indicate the substantial accuracy of the returns of population.

There has been a decrease in the Cariboo district, which in 1891 returned a population of 4,970 persons, and in 1881 of 7,550, a decrease of 2,580. The Commissioner of the district, in reply to a query from the Department on the point, writes:

"The mining population of Cariboo has undoubtedly decreased and the agricultural increased since 1891. The decrease of the former I should roughly estimate at from 600 to 800, and the increase of the latter at from 100 to 200."

Besides the decrease of the mining population thus indicated, there is a strip of territory included between the 54th and the 60th parallels and the 120th and 124th meridians, the population of which has not yet been received by the Census Branch, the Hudson's Bay Company's officers having been unable up to the present date to communicate the results.

Another reason for the decrease is that the Indian settlements at Stuart's Lake, Fraser's Lake and Stony Creek and the mining camps on the Omineca River and its tributaries were included in Cariboo in 1881, but are now definitely known as being within the boundaries of New Westminster district.

THE WORK OF ENUMERATING.

Few persons, especially in the east, have any idea of the work involved in enumerating the people in British Columbia. Some extracts from the diary of the enumerator who had charge of the census in the region whence spring the Fraser, the Skeena, and the Peace Rivers will assist in giving an idea of the difficulties encountered:

"Left Victoria June 1st, arrived at Naas River June 6th. Started work June 8th; great difficulty in getting Indians. Every Indian wants to know what this work is for, and some even want pay for using their names.

June 11th, travelled in skiff about 18 miles to fishing stations and got about 70 names. Very difficult travelling on the river on account of strong tides and heavy winds. Registered deaths and entered establishments, churches, etc. It is almost an impossibility to find out the number of canoes, shanties, &c., on account of the Indians being so suspicious.

13th. Rowed boat 15 miles to Indian village and entered 87 names.

15th. Pulled boat 15 miles and registered names at Mill's Bay.

16th. Started for up river and had to return on account of strong current. Very difficult travelling this season of the year on the rivers as the water is very high.

19th. Started for Skeena, heavy wind and rain all day.

20th. Arrived at Fort Simpson, 6 p.m.

22nd. Procured supplies and started for Skeena. Also drew \$100 in cash. Also bought one rifle and cartridges, which it was impossible to get along without in the interior, as it is the only possible means of procuring fresh meat.

24th. Reached Port Essington.

25th. Started to work among the canneries.

26th. Taking mostly Chinooks.

27th. Took down all the industrial establishments and institutions and walked 5 miles over rough trail to Cunningham's saw mill.

29th. Rain all day. We had considerable trouble with the Indians making them understand what we were doing. We talked Chinook to them.

July 1st. Finished the village and did considerable running around in boat; wind and rain all day.

2nd. Pulled boat to Balmoral cannery and did most of the work to be done there.

3rd. Pulled boat to fishing camps along the river. Great difficulty in getting the fishermen, as they are in all parts of the river, camped in every cove along the banks. We have to pull the boat from one side of the river to the other, and as the tides and winds are strong, it is very slow work.

6th. Heavy downpour of rain still continues. A large landslide occurred at the North Pacific cannery this morning, sweeping everything before it. It struck one part of the Indian camp carrying away three or four houses, killing ten people and injuring several.

7th. The downpour of rain still continues. Took the registry of deaths from the missionaries.

9th. Started up river and reached Aberdeen cannery. We have to pay the Indians \$100 to take us to the Forks of the Skeena.

10th. Started to work at 7 o'clock, and worked steadily all day till 9 to-night, registering upwards of 200, and travelled up the river by canoe about 25 miles. We have camped on an old camping ground, and the mosquitoes and blackflies are in clouds.

11th to 14th. Travelling, except on Sunday; the Indians declining to work on that day.

15th. Still on our trip. This has been the hardest day's work as yet, as the further up the river we get the stronger is the current. We made three portages this day with our provisions and blankets, then hauling the canoe up the river with a line.

16th. Started out at 7 o'clock and only made about five miles. All hands of us working hard all day polling the canoe and lining it over hard water, we reached the Kit Silas Canyon about 4 o'clock. This is the worst piece of water on the Skeena River. We had to unload all our things and carry them over a hill about one mile. It is the finest piece of work any person ever laid eyes on to see the Indians taking the canoe over the canyon. Two men stay in the canoe, one in the bow and the other—the captain—in the stern, both stripped ready to jump for their lives in case an eddy should catch the canoe and smash it to pieces. The other Indians have two lines on shore to haul the canoe up.

26th. We reach Houlgate and crossed the river at the canyon on the Indian suspension bridge. The bridge is built of poles and withes—the length being about 120 feet and about fifty feet above the water. On crossing the bridge a person has to go very steady, as the structure sways and bends like a swing, only allowing one person to cross at a time. The canyon is lined with Indians catching salmon, their mode being with traps and long poles with hooks at the end. These Indians are the