

*The Relation between Numbers of Dwellings and Houses owned.*

In table I of the first volume is given the number of separate dwellings subdivided into five categories, namely: vessels, shanties, inhabited houses, uninhabited houses, and houses in construction, situated in each district; in table XXI of the third volume are given the number of houses owned by the inhabitants of each district. The critics assume that the results of these two separate and quite distinct informations should exactly correspond, and on such extraordinary assumption attack the accuracy of the Census, because in the Census returns the figures representing these two results do not correspond.

The fact of the matter is that if these figures were in precise correspondence it would be proof that they had been "cooked" and made, by a dishonest process, false and erroneous, for otherwise they cannot agree, being of different nature and purpose.

First, it is self evident that vessels afloat, shanties, tents, and wigwams of nomads are not houses owned, although they are dwellings; second, that houses owned by non-resident persons or companies are not to be included in the number of houses owned in Canada, although they are Canadian dwellings: this at once makes the number of houses owned smaller than the number of dwellings by many thousands. The error of the critics, in this instance, is such that they have dwelt on the fact that in the Territories there are only 1,242 houses owned by Canadians for 11,652 occupied; when the Census shows that 9,357 of these dwellings are not houses, but the lodges of nomadic populations.

But there is another reason which influences the difference in a much greater ratio, coming from the fact that many, a great many, houses built and owned as one immovable property form two or more separate dwellings or abodes. By instruction, the enumerators were thus ordered in regard to dwellings to be entered in table I: "A 'separate house is to be counted wherever the entrance from the outside 'is separate.' No such thing in relation to table XXI, where are entered as one property, one house owned, any such real estate which is by the proprietor thereof considered one building of human abode, no matter that it does oftentimes comprise two separate dwellings or inhabited houses with separate entrance, under the same roof.

Hence, when the Census gives (1881) 753,017 occupied dwellings it includes 116 vessels, and 14,692 shanties, tents or wigwams: when it gives 738,209 houses as dwellings occupied, and only 712,440 owned, it is not only *prima facie* correct, but it also conveys the information, worth having, that there were in 1881 about 25,000 houses with double separate dwellings.

There is, on this point, no apparent error, and none to be suspected. Therefore, when the critic, on the face of these figures, exclaims: "It 'is one of those things, we fancy, that no fellah can understand,'" it only shows that he, the critic, has failed to understand a very simple thing.