

Census Analysis

BY C. STEPHENSON

IN a spare hour spent browsing in the magazine section of the Vancouver Public Library I happened upon a digest of the last Canadian Census (1921) returns in the April "Edinburgh Review." The author of the digest, J. A. Stephenson, a Canadian journalist, is a frequent and well informed contributor of articles on Canadian public affairs to various journals, both in America and Great Britain.

As I remember, his digest seemed principally made to show that in Canada, as elsewhere, our modern civilization exhibits a marked trend in population to herd together in towns and cities. The significant, portentous feature of this trend is that in many countries, the cities are growing at the expense of the country; there is an absolute decrease in their rural populations. Some of the provinces of Canada, principally the older settled ones, exhibit this feature. The last census shows the rural and urban populations as now equal, with an absolute increase in both, though the increase in the urban since 1891 is out of all proportion greater than the growth of the rural population. This shifting movement of population has in it many points of interest for the Socialist student of the social problem. I therefore made the following abstract from the article in question, as, though worth it, it was, with the author's running commentary upon the statistics, too long for the limited columns of the Clarion. One more matter before I proceed with the statistics. Now that the census returns have been published and issued to the libraries, I think it would be a good thing if some one would make a digest of the population by vocations and occupations, the comparative standing of such groups to each other and places of location in the distribution of the population. The daily work day habits and interests of life are the great formative factors of habits of thought. And we sadly need such exacting statistical data on the population in Canada to use as a basis for our theorizing upon the problem of social change in this country. I suggest the Clarion management donate a prize to the best effort along some such lines as I have mentioned(*) Now for the population statistics. All comments, except one initiated for myself, are the author's.

Total population, 1871—3,689,257; 1921—8,788,483; increase, 5 million, or over 238 per cent. Ontario and Quebec have greatest increase: Quebec, 98 per cent by fecundity; Ontario, 80 per cent. by immigration.

Shifting of Population From Rural Life to Urban

1891—3,296,141 rural to 1,537,098 urban: 1921—on a parity, 4,435,710 rural and 4,352,733 urban: greatest change in Quebec: city of Montreal greatly developed: water powers for electrification and pulpwood resources have given rise to scores of little industrial towns: rural population declined by 304, and urban increased by 355,725. In Ontario, since 1891, rural population has declined 70,000; today's standing is—rural 1,226,379; urban 1,707,283; yet today, with increased local market and superior transportation facilities to both home and foreign markets the agrarians are probably worse off than ever—mortgaged to the hilt (C.S.). The author here digressed into an argument against the eastern policy of protecting factory industries by tariffs, quoting Sir Robert Giffen to the effect that the growth of an urban civilization is possible without factories. The author further credits this au-

thority with calculating that a purely rural population will demand a complementary urban population of professional men, artisans, people engaged in transportation, finance and distribution and other auxiliary types of at least half its own number. In his digest the author lumps Manitoba and Saskatchewan together because Winnipeg, largest city of the West, is the distributing and transportation centre for both provinces: Manitoba and Saskatchewan—rural, 887,054; urban 480,241; Manitoba's urban population mainly in Winnipeg, 200,000 out of 261,616: of its towns only Brandon exceeds 10,000. New Brunswick's and Saskatchewan's rural population still double urban. In British Columbia rural population shows distinct sign of growing, two-thirds of immigrants choosing rural occupations. Nova Scotia shows, he says, depressing tendency to industrialism: In 1891 only 17 per cent. classed as urban, in 1921, 43.34 per cent; rural population has declined in 30 years 75,000 or 20 per cent. New Brunswick has an alarming decline in farmers, partly balanced by people engaged in lumbering and allied trades.

Numbers of Chief Stocks—1921

British	4,869,000
French	2,452,782
Austrian	107,671
Belgian	20,234
Dutch	117,506
Finnish	21,494
German	294,636
Greek	5,740
Hebrew	126,196
Italian	66,769
Polish	53,403
Russian	100,064
Scandinavian	167,359
Ukrainian	106,721
Other Europeans	59,312
Chinese	39,587
Japanese	15,868
Syrians	8,282
Other Asiatics	2,177
Indians, North American	110,596
Negro	18,291
Unclassified	24,705
Total	8,788,483
British	4,869,000
Foreigners	3,919,483

(J. A. S.) No attempt was made to enumerate separately people of American birth. There must be several hundred thousand of American birth. But many of them are descendants of Canadians. In taking the census natives of U. S. are treated exactly as native Canadians, and asked to record their own racial descent. Majority of American born therefore come under the classification of British.

British stock in the decade between census taking has increased its preponderance from 54.1 per cent of total to 55.4 per cent.

British stock one-half English origin, remaining half Scotch and Irish. Of the latter, one-half from Ulster.

The census returns do not bear out Asiatic scare in B. C. Total Chinese and Japanese, 55,455 roughly 50 per cent. more than figures of 36,795 in 1911: East Indian population declined half in decade: Jews increased 75,681 to 126,000; Dutch more than doubled, 54,986 to 117,000; Germans declined from 393,320 to 295,000. Much of decline ascribed to descendants of German emigrants finding it useful to conceal racial stock owing to prejudice due to war. Native born Canadians account for three-fourths of population—78 per cent., the British born 12 per

cent., and foreign born 10 per cent. In B. C. British born are strongest, 31 per cent. of total. The foreign born, due to steady invasion of American farmers, reach their highest percentage in Alberta, where they are 30 per cent. of the total.

In Ontario the emigration of factory workers and artisans has brought the British-born element up to almost 20 per cent. Two of the largest hives of British born are Centre Winnipeg and East Calgary. They return the only two Labor members in the Federal house.

Largest Cities.—Montreal, 618,000; Toronto, 521,000; Greater Montreal, 700,000. No other city has attained 200,000 mark, but during past decade Ottawa and Hamilton have joined Winnipeg and Vancouver in the 100,000 category. The aggrandisement of large city has not proceeded at same pace in Canada as in U. S. In 1920 U. S. had 25 per cent. of population in cities over 100,000, but Canada only 18.87 per cent.

Under the terms of the British North America Act, a redistribution of Federal seats must follow each census. This will register a shift westward of political power. By the Act it was arranged that Quebec, for the purpose of electoral arrangements, should be the pivotal province of Dominion. To prevent the growth of an unwieldy House of Commons, Quebec was given a perpetual quota of 65 members. The electoral unit is thus determined by dividing the population of the Province of Quebec by 65. The unit thus obtained in last census was 36,283, as compared with 30,818 in 1911.

Nova Scotia will lose two members, but is putting up a strong fight for amendments to the Act. Other provinces, including Prince Edward Island, have saving clauses. There is a provision that no province must have a smaller representation in Commons than in Senate. P. E. I. has four in latter house and thus is entitled to the same number in Commons. Ontario ought, according to figures, to lose one member, but escapes under another clause. The four western provinces gain between them a total of 12 members. This will likely benefit the Progressive Party. The protectionists are apprehensive of a dangerous increase of free trade influences at Ottawa, and as a counterpoise are demanding that the unit of rural representation be brought up to the same level as the urban. Hitherto all parties have accepted the principle that the electoral unit for rural constituencies should be appreciably smaller than the urban, and as a result the six cities of Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Hamilton and London with one-fifth of the population have today one-tenth of the membership of the Federal House. The rural members who control the situation are unwilling to give up their advantage, but in the end probably some compromise will be reached.

While the political power of Quebec has shown a relative decline in the last thirty years, French Canadians have found some consolation in the trickling of their stock into other provinces. Election experts calculate that today French Canadians control almost one-third of the 245 Federal seats. But the most striking phenomenon has been the growth of the political influence of the west. In 1882 the four provinces sent only 11 members to Ottawa; by 1904 their contingents had risen to 28; but to next parliament there will come 69 members from the territory lying west of the Great Lakes. Fear of a prospective majority for the west inspires many people in Eastern Canada.

(*) We shall be very glad to have such a digest, and recognize its need. The "prize" suggestion, so far as monetary worth is concerned, is a hard one to entertain. We are very sure, however, that the same measure of appreciation accorded on behalf of Clarion readers to Com. Stephenson's efforts here await similar industry from any other. As "The Plebs" folk say: "You get your reward in heaven." —(Ed. Clarion.)