

THE FOURTH CENSUS OF CANADA.

THE enumeration of the inhabitants of the Dominion of Canada taken by order of the legislature, and officially known as the Fourth Census, has been under way for many months. After weary delay, the first bulletin, which deals exclusively with the population, has at length been issued by the Census Commissioner. This general count of polls all too clearly indicates that our people are of less account—forgive the pun—than many soulful patriots fondly anticipated. Unlike the accounts of public expenditure, the census returns contain few evidences of the “growing time.” Precisely what the latter demonstrate may be succinctly gathered from the following comparative statement of the population by Provinces, showing increases and decreases during the past decade :—

Province.	1901.	1891.	Increase.
Ontario.....	2,167,978	2,114,321	53,657
Quebec.....	1,620,974	1,488,535	132,439
Nova Scotia.....	459,116	450,396	8,720
New Brunswick.....	331,093	321,263	9,830
Manitoba.....	246,464	152,506	93,958
British Columbia.....	190,000	98,173	91,827
North-west Territories ...	145,000	66,799	78,201
Prince Edward Island	103,258	109,078	*5,820
Total.....	5,338,883	4,833,239	505,644

* Decrease.

The population of one province decreasing, that of two other practically at a standstill, and that of the new provinces of the West slowly increasing—such is the showing of the first bulletin of the Fourth Census, and all Canadians will agree it is by no means a rosy display. The population of the Dominion which was 4,833,239 in 1891, is now 5,338,883, an increase of 505,644, which is small enough in all conscience. The general expectation was that our people would number from 5,600,000 to 6,000,000, and many enthusiasts expected the six million figure to be passed. The wide difference between this poetical expectation and the grim prosaic reality of the census returns may be accepted as the mea-