

070671

From Address of R.H. Coats at London,

Feb. 22nd, 1922.

-----

First, as to the grand sum total. It has told us that we have a population comfortably over  $8\frac{3}{4}$  millions, compared with one of less  $7\frac{1}{4}$  millions in 1911. In other words, we have gained considerably over a million and a half in the last ten years, doubtless close upon 1,600,000. The percentage gain is 21.5.

Now, there were those amongst us who were inclined to be dissatisfied when this figure first began to come out dimly on the census screen. They were influenced no doubt by the comparison with the preceding decade. It is the fact that in the decade 1900-1910, we gained over 1,800,000 population, which was 34%. If the pace of these years had been maintained, province by province, we should have had, at the least calculation,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  millions in 1921. We appear therefore to be "shy" about half a million people.

I personally think it was unreasonable to expect the 1900-1910 pace to be maintained. It is not fully realized what an extraordinary incident that decade was in our history, and indeed in general history. Our proportionate gain in population during those years was the largest of any country. It was essentially a period in which new countries were being rapidly built up by capital exported from the old ones, Great Britain in particular. During 1900-1910, Canada received approximately one-third of the entire capital export of Great Britain, or one-half as much for new development as all the rest of the world put together. Our primary production increased forty per cent; our secondary production, transportation, etc., over 100%. We grew in short more in that one decade - that decas mirabilis - than we had gained before almost since Confederation.

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 120)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**