

mining, manufacturing and other industries, and municipal, educational, charitable and other institutions. The Census Act of 1905 made provision for the quinquennial census of the Prairie Provinces, a step confirmed by the Statistics Acts of 1918 and 1948. It was under the authority of the Statistics Act of 1918 that the decennial censuses of 1921, 1931 and 1941 and the quinquennial censuses of the Prairie Provinces of 1926, 1936 and 1946 were taken; the ninth decennial census is being taken under authority of the Statistics Act of 1948.

### Objects and Uses of the Census

The objects of the censuses of the pre-Christian era and of the Middle Ages were very limited and would not meet with approval in modern times. Mainly they were used as a means of ascertaining what men could be called to the army and the amounts of money that could be wrung from individuals in taxation. This conception of the object of the census is so alien to the modern idea that it is expressly forbidden by law to use census data for any such purpose.

In Canada the fundamental legal reason for the taking of the census is to be found in the British North America Act of 1867 as amended in 1947. By this legislation, representation was assigned to each province on the basis of "dividing the total population of the provinces by two hundred and fifty four and by dividing the population of each province by the quotient so obtained". If the number of members thereby assigned to a province should be less than the number of senators for that province then the number of Members of Parliament for that province are increased to equal its number of senators. This is the case with Prince Edward Island. In addition Yukon was awarded one member and in 1949, on the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation, provision was made for seven members for the new province. Readjustments are to be made after each decennial census so that, should the population of any province have increased or decreased by the amount of the quotient mentioned in the Act, that province will have its representation in Parliament increased or decreased accordingly. The Canadian Census is taken primarily, therefore, to determine the representation of each of the provinces in the Federal House of Commons.

A second reason, of great importance from the provincial standpoint, is the fact that a number of the federal subsidies to the provinces are based on population. The original subsidies granted under the British North America Act are all based on population, namely, those respecting government and legislation, debt allowance and the general per capita subsidy. Subsequently, the tax agreements entered into with eight of the provinces are predicated, amongst other things, on population increases in relation to other factors.

The census, however, has a far wider application than the fixing of representation and federal subsidies. Periodically all businesses take inventory of what is on their shelves and in their store rooms, estimate the value of their plant and generally take stock of their financial position. The government equivalent of this procedure is