

Dec., 1891

## THE CANADIAN CENSUS.

THE returns of the recent census in Canada are generally admitted to show results that are not quite satisfactory, though they do not deserve the severe criticism to which they have in some quarters been subjected. There is some difference of opinion as to the causes that are responsible for the comparatively small increase in the population that has been witnessed. It is only natural that there should be an anxiety to ascertain why the increase is only 11·66 per cent. (rather larger than that in the United Kingdom), when an addition of nearly double that percentage was expected; and at first sight it is apt to appear somewhat remarkable that in 1891 there are apparently only 504,601 more people in Canada than in 1881, considering the developments that have taken place in the Dominion during that time. Before, however, entering upon an examination of the reasons that are believed to afford a reasonable explanation of what seems to be an anomaly, it may be as well to briefly summarize the census figures, as presented to the Canadian Parliament:—

Provinces.	1871.	1881.	Increase.	Per Cent.	1891.	Increase.	Per Cent.
Nova Scotia . . . . .	387,800	410,572	52,772	13·61	450,523	9,951	2·25
New Brunswick . . . . .	285,594	321,233	35,639	12·48	321,294	61	0·02
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	94,021	108,891	14,870	17·19	109,088	197	0·18
Total—Maritime Provinces	767,415	840,696	103,281	13·45	880,905	10,209	1·17
Quebec . . . . .	1,191,516	1,359,027	167,511	14·05	1,488,586	129,559	9·53
Ontario . . . . .	1,620,851	1,926,922	306,071	18·88	2,112,989	186,067	9·65
Total—Quebec and Ontario	2,812,367	3,285,949	473,582	16·83	3,601,575	315,626	9·60
Manitoba . . . . .	25,228	62,260	37,032	146·78	154,442	92,182	148·06
North-West Territories . . . . .	18,000	25,515	7,515	41·75	67,554	42,039	164·76
British Columbia . . . . .	33,586	49,459	15,873	47·26	92,767	43,308	87·86
Unorganized Territory . . . . .	30,000	30,931	931	3·10	32,168	1,237	4·00
Total Western Provinces . . . . .	106,814	168,165	61,351	57·43	346,931	178,766	106·30
Total for the Dominion . . . . .	3,686,596	4,324,810	638,214	17·31	4,829,411	504,601	11·66

It will be seen that, in the Maritime Provinces, there has been an increase of only 10,209 people in the ten years, as compared with 103,281 in the previous decade; and in Quebec and Ontario an increase of 315,626 as against 473,582. The increase in the Western Provinces is more gratifying, but even there it does not come up to