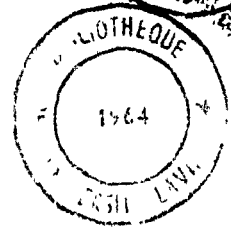


1st Session, 2nd Parliament, 3 Victoria, 1844-5.

REPORT

Of the Select Committee of the Honorable
the Legislative Council on the Census
Returns of Lower Canada, in pursuance
of the Act 4 & 5 Victoria, Cap. 42.

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R E P O R T

Of the Select Committee of the Honorable the Legislative Council
on the Census Returns of Lower Canada, in pursuance of the Act,
4 & 5 Vict. Cap. 42.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

COMMITTEE ROOM, 26TH MARCH, 1845.

The Select Committee to whom were referred the several returns and enumerations made by the Commissioners appointed in virtue of the Act of the last Session, intituled, "*An Act for taking the Census of the Inhabitants of Lower Canada, and for obtaining certain statistical information therein mentioned,*" and laid before Your Honorable House on the 6th December last, have in obedience to the order of reference, taken the same into their consideration, and now beg leave to offer their report thereon.

The usual daily avocations required from the Members of this House during the Session, wholly preclude a minute and distinct enquiry into the correctness of the returns which have been submitted to them for investigation. Your Committee does not now therefore feel disposed to offer any positive opinion as to the manner in which the returns have been completed by the several Commissioners employed in the execution of this important duty, until a more ample examination can be made of them during the recess, than can be afforded during the Session. Some of the returns appear to have been made with great care and attention, and may therefore be depended on, while others appear to be rather carelessly executed.

Your Committee therefore deem it proper to submit to Your Honorable House, what may be considered as an approximation to the real result of the statistical information which it was the object of the above mentioned Census to obtain. Your Committee do not vouch for the accuracy of the details, as they are fully aware from many particulars that might here be alluded to, that the Commissioners appointed to make the returns, or their Assistants have not throughout been governed by one general rule, and that therefore serious and important discrepancies must necessarily occur.

Your Committee notice that the decenary returns of the population taken in the United Kingdom, are submitted to a most rigorous examination, and the results are not made known until, in many instances, a year or more has elapsed. Such a delay in this Province need not be required, but to ensure accuracy and to afford to the Legislature the opportunity of amending the Act 4 & 5 Vict. c. 42, which will again be in operation in the year 1847, Your Committee deem it adviseable to recommend that the returns now referred to them, should be thoroughly investigated during the ensuing recess by the Clerk of Special Com-



mittees, who was in the year 1831 employed by both the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Lower Canada, to examine and report on the Census Returns then laid before that Legislature, and who should be required to make out a recapitulation by Parishes or Townships, Counties and Districts and to point out any apparent errors, and if possible to correct or reconcile them before the next Session, and to submit such a report upon all the details embodied in such returns as will place before the Province a statistical document that may be at all times serviceable; and at the same time the last Census Returns of Upper Canada for 1842, submitted to the Legislature in October, 1843, might be submitted to a similar investigation, with a view of arriving at the same result.

Your Committee cannot conclude these remarks without mentioning it as their opinion, that no good result will be obtained from any future Census Returns, unless an uniform system, subject to forms and instructions issued from a competent authority be adopted throughout, and strictly adhered to, followed by a careful examination of the returns made by the Commissioners, before their accounts are paid, with a view to the correction of errors or omissions, and by a systematic investigation to ascertain that the several columns, where items ought to agree, do in reality answer to the general recapitulation, or some reason be assigned for a contrary result. The expenses incurred by the Province for this information (which on the present occasion, will amount to about £4,800) warrant such a strict adherence to general rules, so as to obtain an accurate return.

Your Committee would further recommend that the several returns, as submitted to Your Honorable House, be forthwith bound up in such number of volumes, as may be found most convenient, having reference to Districts and localities, with a view to their preservation and for future reference in all matters of statistics.

Your Committee will now submit the general results as far as their limited information will enable them at present to do.

1. In reference to the number of Dwellings.

There are of Houses inhabited.....	106,803
“ “ vacant.....	4,041
“ “ now being built.....	1,643
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Total dwellings.....	112,487

2. In reference to heads of families and their qualification as electors.

There are Proprietors of Real Estate.....	76,032
Non Proprietors of Real Estate.....	37,113
Tenants having votes in Towns, &c.....	8,296
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Total heads of families.....	121,441

3. The total population.

Actually resident at the taking of the returns.....	687,598
Temporarily absent at the same time.....	6,051
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	693,649

and at this fixed number, your Committee have founded all their succeeding remarks, but allowing for omissions, and a slight increase by emigration, the population may be reckoned in round numbers at..... 700,000

4. On the subject of national origin.

Natives of England.....	11,886
Ireland.....	44,012
Scotland.....	13,341
Canada of French origin.....	518,565
British origin.....	85,075
Continental Europe or otherwise.....	2,353
United States of America.....	11,943
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	687,175

Leaving a balance unaccounted for, if the residents only have been distinguished of.....	523
Or if the residents and absentees have been taken into account of.....	6,574

5. As to allegiance.

The number of aliens not naturalized is.....	1,505
Leaving for natural born or naturalized subjects.....	692,144
	<hr/>
	693,649

6. As to the ages and proportions of the sexes.

	Males.	Females.
Aged 1 year and under.....	16,450	16,054
1 year and under 2.....	11,853	11,938
2 years and under 3.....	12,974	12,779
3 years and under 4.....	12,436	12,276
4 years and under 5.....	12,517	13,194
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Total under 5.....	66,230	66,241
Aged 5 and under 10.....	46,490	46,517
10 and under 15.....	45,727	44,586
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Between 5 and 15.....	92,217	91,103
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Total under 15.....	158,447	157,344

	Males		Females	
	unmarried.	married.	unmarried.	married.
Aged 15 and under 21.....	39,513	2,111	38,169	6,705
21 and under 30.....	20,023	22,999	17,345	30,909
30 and under 40.....	5,982	33,502	5,891	32,221
40 and under 50.....	3,250	25,637	5,083	22,143
50 and under 60.....	2,158	15,096	3,355	12,412
60 and upwards.....	2,857	13,420	4,603	10,118
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	73,783	112,765	74,446	114,508

	Unmarried.	Married.	Total.
Total males 15 and over.....	73,783	112,765	186,548
Females ".....	74,446	114,508	188,954
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Total unmarried ".....	148,229		
Married ".....		227,273	
Total over 15.....			375,502

	Males.	Females.
Total over 15 years of age.....	186,548	188,954
under 15 years of age.....	158,447	157,344
Total general of sexes.....	<u>344,995</u>	<u>346,298</u>
Grand total.....	<u>691,293</u>	
Leaving unaccounted for.....	2,356	
	<u>693,649</u>	

Of those under age there are 2,111 males married and 6705 females married, being a total of 8816 married minors.

7. As to afflictions.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
There are of Deaf and Dumb.....	447	278	725
Blind.....	273	250	523
Idiots.....	478	472	950
Lunatics.....	156	152	308
Total.....	<u>1,354</u>	<u>1,152</u>	<u>2,506</u>

Your Committee would here mention that the proportion of Deaf and Dumb to the whole population is as 1 to about 957—a greater proportion than prevails throughout all Europe (1 in 1537) and the United States (1 in 2000)—or the whole world throughout, (1 in 1556) and is only exceeded by the solitary cases of Switzerland and Baden where the proportion is respectively 1 in 503 and 559.

8. As to religious denominations.

There are of the Church of England.....	43,274
" Scotland.....	26,725
" Rome.....	571,714
British Wesleyan Methodists.....	10,814
Canadian Wesleyan do.....	3,010
Episcopal Methodists.....	711
Other Methodists.....	1,318
Presbyterians generally.....	5,231
Congregationalists and Independants.....	3,890
Baptists and Anabaptists.....	4,067
Lutherans.....	96
Quakers.....	144
Moravians and Tunkers.....	2
Dutch Reformed Church.....	10
Jews.....	154
Other religious denominations.....	7,099
Totally unaccounted for.....	15,390
	<u>693,649</u>

9. The number of persons of colour, is 140 males and 121 females, making a total of 261.

10. On the subject of the occupation of the population there are returned—

Male farm servants.....	5,967
Other male servants.....	5,390
Female servants.....	11,510
Engaged in Trade and Commerce.....	3,739
Paupers.....	4,563

11. In reference to the cultivation and occupation of the soil.

The number of occupied acres is.....	7,540,450 $\frac{1}{2}$
Of which are under cultivation.....	3,083,949 $\frac{3}{4}$
And not under cultivation.....	4,456,400 $\frac{1}{2}$

12. The produce of the preceding year (1843) has been returned as follows :

Wheat.....	944,909
Barley.....	1,221,710
Rye.....	340,458
Oats.....	6,989,933 $\frac{3}{4}$
Peas.....	1,428,303
Indian Corn.....	140,947
Buck Wheat.....	385,043 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes.....	9,914,639 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Winchester Bushels.....	21,365,943$\frac{3}{4}$

The number of Beehives kept was 7,896, and the quantity of Maple Sugar made was 2,346,293 pounds.

13. The return of Live Stock, &c., is as follows :

Oxen, &c.....	559,626
Horses.....	144,530
Sheep.....	601,243
Swine.....	197,517
Total.....	1,502,916 head.

14. In relation to home Manufactures, Your Committee find that in 1843, there were manufactured in the family—

Of Fulled Cloth.....	773,127 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards.
“ Linen or Cotton.....	849,562 $\frac{1}{2}$ “
“ Flannel.....	641,817 $\frac{1}{2}$ “
Making a Total of.....	2,264,507$\frac{3}{4}$ yards.

And there were produced of Wool..... 1,209,780 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

15. On the important subject of Education, Your Committee have ascertained that there are—

Sixty-three Colleges, Academies, Convents, &c., and 1566 Elementary Schools, making a total of..... 1,629 Educational establishments,

At which..... 31,432 Males and
25,146 Females are taught,

Making a total of..... 56,578 in attendance thereon.

16. The Returns Report.

Taverns or Houses of public entertainment.....	1,039
And Stores where Spiritous Liquors are sold.....	792
Total.....	1,831

17. In reference to the Manufactories, there are of

Grist Mills.....	417	with 849 run of stones.
Oatmeal Mills.....	111	
Barley ".....	48	
Saw ".....	895	
Oil ".....	30	
Fulling ".....	155	
Carding ".....	165	
Thrashing".....	451	
Paper ".....	7	
Iron Works.....	79	
Trip Hammers.....	18	
Nail Factories.....	7	
Distilleries.....	37	
Breweries.....	29	
Tanneries.....	325	
Pot and Pearl Asheries.....	423	
All other Manufactories.....	136	
	<hr/>	
Making a Total of.....	3,333	

The whole nevertheless humbly submitted.

FRS. P. BRUNEAU,

Chairman.

