

# Appeal Made to Public to Facilitate the Work of the Census for 1941

**Government's Reasons for Taking the Census. How the Work is Done. Illegal to Refuse Information or Impede Work but Government Asking the Public to Cooperate to Facilitate the Taking of Census.**

Like many others in Canada to-day, The Advance believes that the census should be deferred until after the war, but if it is to be proceeded with, as seems certain now, despite the cost, it is the duty of all to facilitate the work to the greatest possible extent. It may be said in this connection that the Government Dept. concerned in playing the game in the matter of making it a national census, the officials in each and every riding being instructed to secure suitable men from all parties for the work of taking the census. In that particular it is not to be a party affair, but a national one. The result will naturally be a better census. The public should co-operate in every way. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has prepared the following article which The Advance is publishing herewith in full in regard to why the census is taken and how it is taken.

#### Introduction

As of June 2, 1941, the Census of the Dominion will be taken. The Census has been called "the largest single act of administration of the Government," in reference partly to its physical extent—the census organization covering every section of the country for a many-sided task—and also to the great importance of census results.

The success of the Census depends largely upon the co-operation of the people. Without a general appreciation of the ends in view, and without the cordial assistance of individual citizens towards these ends, a good census will be impossible. A brief description of the scope, methods and purpose of the census and of its place in statistical and general administration will therefore be of interest and utility at the present time.

#### Historical

Census-taking dates from the dawn of civilization. Moses numbered the children of Israel in the fifteenth century B.C. (Exodus XXX, 12-15; Numbers 1, 2-4 and 47-49; III, 14-16; IV, 34-49). But statistical investigations were made many centuries earlier, in Babylonia, (4,000 B.C.), in China (3,000 B.C.), in Egypt (2,500 B.C.). A census taken by King David in 1017 B.C. achieved evil notoriety in history from the Divine wrath which it provoked (II Samuel XXIV, 1-25; I Chronicles XXI, 1-27), and was cited for many generations in opposition to the spirit of scientific inquiry. The Census was one of the institutions founded by the great law-giver Solon at Athens in the sixth century B.C. The Romans, too, were assiduous census-takers, both under the Republic and the Empire; Julius Caesar reformed the census among other things. The Breviary of Charlemagne (A.D. 808) and the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror (A.D. 1086) are celebrated mediæval censuses. Later, the census disappeared from Europe.

It may not be generally known that the credit of taking the first census of modern times belongs to Canada. The year was 1666; the census was that of the Colony of New France. There had been earlier records of settlement at Port Royal (1605) and Quebec, (1508) but the Census of 1666 was a systematic "nominal" enumeration of the people, (i.e., a record of each individual by name), taken for a fixed date, showing the age, sex, place of residence, occupation and conjugal condition of each person. The results are to be seen in a document of 154 pages in the Archives of Paris, of which a transcript is in The Public Archives at Ottawa. Altogether this Census recorded 321,500 souls. When it is recalled that in Europe the first modern Census dated only from the eighteenth century (those of France and England from the first year of the nineteenth), whilst in the United States no Census of the country as a whole was taken before 1790, the achievement of the primitive St. Lawrence Colony in instituting what is today one of the principal instruments of Government in every civilized community may call for more than passing appreciation.

#### The Census Schedules

The schedules used in the Census are eight in number dealing respectively with (1) Population, (2) Agriculture, (3) Horticulture, (4) Live Stock, Fruit Growing, etc. in towns, (5) Housing, (6) Merchandising and Service Establishments, (7) Blindness and Deaf-Mutism and (8) Institutions (penal, mental and neurological, cald-caring, homes for adults, hospitals, sanatoria, dispensaries, clinics, day nurseries). Merely to state the questions asked on these would be impossible here. The population schedule carries some forty columns, recording for each person the name, family, kind of dwelling, age, sex, conjugal condition, birthplace, citizenship or nationality, racial origin, language, religion, education, occupation, unemployment, etc., etc. in all necessary detail. The schedule relating to agriculture was drawn up in consultation with Dominion and Provincial Agricultural Departments and other agricultural authorities, and in the light of the suggestions made for a World Census of agriculture. It will elicit a wealth of information on such features as farm acreages, land values, buildings, implements, crops, fertilizers, farm labour, orchards, small fruits, farm gardens, live stock, poultry, animal products, forest products, land tenure, irrigation, drainage, co-operative marketing, farm mortgages, etc., etc. The schedule on animals, etc., in towns is supplementary to the agricultural schedule; there are of course a considerable number of horses, cattle, poultry, bees, etc. within urban limits and their products and those of market gardens, town orchards, etc. are in the aggregate important. Indeed, at the instance of fruit and vegetable growers' associations throughout the

country, a special schedule on this subject has been devised for the present Census. Further, a detailed schedule on housing has been incorporated into the present Census in order to obtain full information regarding the kind of homes in which the Canadian people live; this schedule, however, is to be taken on a sample basis, in respect of every tenth home visited by the enumerator. The schedule on industrial and business concerns collects only the name, address and class of each; this is for the use of a subsequent detailed inquiry which will be conducted through correspondence by the Bureau, as in 1931. The record of the blind and deaf-mutes is to facilitate the work of educational and other institutions for these classes. The population in institutions will be enumerated in the regular way by means of the Population schedule proper, but it is intended that a special inquiry shall be handled direct from the Bureau with the heads in institutions in order that not merely the numbers of men, women and children committed to such institutions may be obtained, but also facts regarding the characteristics of the inmates, causes of commitment and other information which will furnish the basis for a complete analysis of problems incidental to social life, and act as a guide to the Provincial Governments and organizations engaged in social and welfare work.

In connection with these somewhat elaborate and searching series of inquiries the following points should be clearly understood: (1) that no question has been inserted merely because the information would be interesting, but only because it has a bearing on basic social or economic conditions; and (2) that the answers given by the individual are absolutely confidential, every employee of the Census being under oath and penalty against revealing any individual item, and the Bureau of Statistics itself being forbidden to issue any statement that would lay bare any personal matter.

Though the name of each person is taken down this is not for the purpose of associating the individual with any of the facts that are recorded, but merely as a check on the accuracy of the enumeration. The census is first and last for statistical purposes and cannot be made the basis of any direct administrative action. Let it also be noted that census enumerators are required to use courtesy and tact in collecting the information, though refusal to answer a census question is penalized by statute.

#### Methods of Collection and Compilation

The organization by which this far-flung investigation is carried out and its results reduced to comprehensible nucleus exists in a small permanent and unable form is a large one. Its staff constituting one of the branches of the Bureau of Statistics. This branch maintains connection between census and census, so that experience is continuous and cumulative. When a census impends, all plans are originated by it, and the necessary expansion of personnel is arranged for. The latter falls under two main headings, the field work or collection of the facts and the compilation and tabulation of the latter into census reports.

In planning the field work the country is first divided into "census districts", each of which is placed in charge of a "census commissioner". The districts are then divided into "sub-districts", varying in population from 600 to 800 in rural localities, and from 1,000 to 1,300 in urban. The subdistrict is the territory allotted to a "census enumerator", who conducts the house to house and farm to farm canvass, and who is the only census official with whom the public comes directly in contact. One object of the census being to determine parliamentary representation, the act directs that census districts shall correspond as nearly as possible to the federal constituencies for the time being, whilst the subdistricts are to be roughly the same as the polling subdivisions. Some of the constituencies, however, are too large for one commissioner and are accordingly divided; division is also necessary in a good many cases from the polling units. Altogether the Census of 1941 will employ 249 commissioners and probably 16,000 to 17,000 enumerators. The commissioners are appointed by the Minister, and instructed by an officer of the Bureau; the enumerators are appointed and instructed by the commissioners, who must also check and vouch for all the enumerators returns before the latter are forwarded to Ottawa. All field officers are paid for the most part on a "piece" basis, i.e., according to the population, farms, etc., enumerated. All are required to pass a practical test in the work before appointment.

For a Census that covers half a continent, embracing the most varied conditions of nature and settlement, uniformity of plan is clearly impossible. For the remote and seldom populated regions of Ungava, Northern Ontario and the West, the organizations of the fur-trading companies and of the various church missions have been engaged. In other similar regions the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will take the Census whilst the agents of the Indian Department will perform a like service for the Indian population on reserves and elsewhere. Representatives of the Department will visit the remote northern and sub-arctic regions. Even in districts that are closer there remain a large number of cases where pack trains must be organized, steamers chartered and similar special means employed to ensure that no section of the country escapes enumeration. Aeroplanes will be used in some districts.

For the compilation of the Census a considerable extra staff is required at Ottawa. Census compilation and tabulation is an elaborate and detailed process which would take much space to describe. An interesting feature is

## BRITISH ENVOY HEARS F.D.R. SPEECH



Smiling like true allies, Lord Halifax and President Roosevelt shake hands at Staunton, Vt., where the president dedicated Woodrow Wilson's birthplace as a national shrine. "We are ready to fight again," was the challenge Mr. Roosevelt threw down to enemies of freedom. This is the first picture of the two men together since Lord Halifax arrived in the U.S.A.

the use of machinery in compiling and analyzing the returns. The method is very briefly as follows: The several fests obtained for each individual are punched on a specially designed card, the perforations showing by their location the exact information obtained at the census.

The cards are then sorted and otherwise manipulated by machines which count and record various combinations of data as required, according to the perforations on the cards. For example, should it be desired to know the number of say, civil engineers of Canadian citizenship between the ages of 21 and 50, in the province of Ontario, the machines will pick out and count the cards in a few operations. The invention of these machines, of which the Bureau of Statistics has a large battery, some being of its own invention and construction, has greatly increased the scope and accuracy of the information derivable from the Census, at the same time that it has halved the cost. A record exists of over a million and a half classifications by one machine in a single day.

It is expected that from two to four weeks from June 2nd will suffice in normal localities for the completion of the field work. After the third or fourth month it should be possible to give out the first results for many cities, towns, counties, etc. As to when the absolutely final count by provinces for the entire Dominion will be available, so many unforeseeable contingencies are possible that prophecy is dangerous, but it is expected that four or five months should enable a close approximation to be made.

#### Conclusion

The foregoing explanations will have given an outline of what the Census is and of how it is carried out. It remains only to say that the whole has been planned with the utmost care, with the experience of other countries and of seven previous censuses of Canada in view, and with special reference to the requirements of the present hour and also to the necessity of not burdening the community with any inquiry that is not fully justified. The Census, therefore, merits the support of each and every citizen as a patriotic duty. It is taken for the benefit of the community as a whole and therefore directly or indirectly of every member of the community. Never before has there been the like need for census information. Since the last Census the great depression and the subsequent recovery and now the war have left scarcely a branch of the national life untouched. Especially is an appraisal of the national status necessary at the present moment in view of the problems of post-war reconstruction for which preparations must be made in advance. An appeal to the people is therefore made to assist in this great national undertaking by furnishing the information fully and accurately and thus helping to render the Census worthy of the Dominion and of the serious purposes which it has in view.

#### "Those English!"

A bomb dropped by a Nazi raider at south-coast town a short while ago hit the water and sent hundreds of fish, dead or stunned, on the decks of three vessels lying in the harbor.

On one ship the crew had enough fish to last them for two days.

But as they ate a dinner of fresh fish a burly sailor sent for the ship's cook. From his galley the cook appeared, conscious of a morning's work well done.

"Tell Adolf," said the sailor, "not to forget the chips next time."

#### NOT SO REASSURING

She—Here's a story of a man out West who bartered his wife for a horse. You wouldn't swap me for a horse, would you, darling?

He—Of course not (pauses), but I'd hate to have any one tempt with a good motor car.—Globe and Mail.

hesitation. Not only is waste paper necessary to industry, and if not collected must be imported which requires foreign exchange, but other factors are involved.

Saving waste paper helps conserve Canadian forests. It helps turn Canadian forest labor from the cutting of pulpwood to the cutting of pit props and other woods very essential to the war effort. Further, saving waste paper reduces the drain on transportation facilities since transportation of the partially manufactured waste paper is easier and cheaper than the transportation of bulky pulp wood. These factors are vital parts of Canada's war economy.

One of the problems of waste paper collection in Canada is availability of markets. In some areas markets are not within economic haulage distance. National Salvage headquarters officials here point out that this should not deter the collection of waste paper in those districts.

Marketing conditions must constantly change they add, and the storage of waste paper, in baled form, is simple. Deposits of waste paper even in semi-isolated districts, will most likely be called upon in due course.

If you have waste paper that you can pass on to the salvage work where it will do the most good for Canada and the Empire, just phone 3105 any time of the day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and arrangements will be promptly made for its collection. Phone 3105 is the telephone number of the Boys' "K" Club, and this club has been busy all this year gathering waste paper, rags and metal for salvage purposes. When the Dominion salvage campaign was inaugurated, the work was continued in the hands of the Boys' "K" Club.

At South Porcupine the salvage collection is being carried out by an amalgamation of a number of organizations for boys—Rover Scouts Boy Scouts and the Boys' "K" Club. The boys started collection of the salvage material on Tuesday, and will continue the work as long as the need remains. The old library building on Commercial Avenue and the Porcupine Young Men's Club house are being used as the headquarters at South Porcupine for warehousing. On Monday the South Porcupine correspondent of The Advance closed a reference to the salvage work at South Porcupine with the slogan—"Be patriotic—Save your paper for the boys."

#### NOT INTERESTED

The little guests at a party were being arranged in a group for a flashlight photograph. Seeing one little fellow who appeared rather awed, the photographer spoke to him kindly. "Cheer up, sonny," he said. "Smile at this little girl over here."

"Why should I?" he asked indignantly. "She's my sister."—Exchange.

## Mrs. George Dickenson Passes on at Englehart

Englehart, May 14—One of the first two women to cross the Englehart bridge into the town, Mrs. George Dickenson died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. G. Calvert, Strathroy, in her 84th year.

With Mrs. Dickenson when she arrived in Englehart in 1905 was her daughter, Mrs. Calvert.

Rev. J. Harrower, of the United Church, officiated at the funeral which was held from the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. C. H. Hamilton, Englehart, May 6. Interment was in the Englehart cemetery. Pallbearers were George, Lloyd, Charles and Gordon Dickenson, Lloyd Porter and Neil McInnes.

The former Elizabeth Lloyd, Mrs. Dickenson was born in Wrexham, Wales.

Surviving are her daughter, Mrs. D. G. Calvert, Strathroy; and one son, G. H. Dickenson, Englehart. She was predeceased by her husband and 11 children. Sixteen grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren also survive.

Those who attended the funeral from out-of-town were Mrs. D. G. Calvert, Strathroy; Mr. and Mrs. George Dickenson, Kirkland Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Dickenson, Kirkland Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Neil McInnes, Timmins, and Mrs. K. Chrysler, Timmins. Tributes were received by the family.

Smiles—"Is there any night life in your town?" "Oh, yes. Every once in a while a member of our lodge dies and we sit up with the corpse!"

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