SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

Ceylon Government Gazette

PART I.

No. 7,224 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1921.

CENSUS OF CEYLON, 1921.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS.

I.--PROCEDURE.

THE Sixth Decennial Population Census of Ceylon was taken on the night of March 18, 1921. The provisional totals were ready on March 22, and were published in the *Government Gazette* of March 24. The error of figure of the total population given therein was about '00025 of the revised total; the district totals differed from the revised figures by amounts varying from '000025 to '006 of the latter.

2. On receipt of the schedules in the Census Office, the entries in them were posted on to separate slips for each person, the slips being of different colours and shapes to facilitate sorting later. The posting of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ million slips was commenced on March 22 and completed on June 18, a staff of 150 clerks being engaged on this work.

3. The sorting and tabulation work was then taken up, and tables of the general and the estate population by provinces, districts, sex, literacy, religion, and race were published in the *Government* Gazette of September 30, 1921. A similar statement for the 33 principal towns appears in the *Gazette* of October 7. The same particulars for each village are now ready, and go to press shortly. Further tables of the religions by race, sex, literacy, &c., are in preparation, and the tabulation of the population by single ages and civil condition is nearly complete. Sorting and tabulation by birthplaces, occupations, and infirmities will be taken up shortly.

II.-Some of the Results.

4. At this stage of the operations, it is not possible to do more than indicate very briefly the main results which are to be derived from the tables published in the *Gazettes* of September 30 and Ootober 7. In doing so, we shall require some standard to which to refer the rates of increase disclosed by the 1921 Census, and, although the rates of the decade 1901–1911 are somewhat high, it will be found most convenient to use them as the norm of reference.

5. Total Population.—The revised figures give the total population as 4,498,000 (excluding Military and Shipping), and 4,504,000 including them. If the Military and the Shipping are excluded as being of a fluctuating character, this figure shows an increase of about 9.5 per cent. over the 1911 totals, which, with the exception of the decade 1881–1891, is the smallest since the first Decennial Census was taken in 1871. The respective rates are the following :—1871–1881. 15 per cent.; 1881–1891, 9 per cent.; 1891–1901, 18.6 per cent.; 1901–1911, 15.2 per cent.; 1911–1921, 9.5 per cent. The low rate in 1911–1921 is to be ascribed to the influenza pandemic and the war conditions, including shortage of rice and general trade depression. The low rate of 1881–1891 was due to the failure of coffee; and the higher rates in the other decades to the coffee boom in 1871–1881; to the development of tea in 1891–1901; and the rubber boom in 1901–1911.

6. The Provinces.—All the Provinces, with the exception of the North-Central, show a smaller rate of increase than in 1901–1911, the percentage rates of increase being the following:—Western 12.7 in 1911–1921, against 20.2 in 1901–1911; Central 6.8, against 7.8; Northern 1.4, against 8.4; Southern 6.7, against 11; Eastern 5, against 5.9; North-Western 13.4, against 22.8*; Uva 7.9, against 16.4; Sabaragamuwa 15.5, against 27. The North-Central Province shows an increased rate of 12.2, against 9 per cent. The causes of the almost universal fall in the rate of increase are probably those mentioned in the preceding paragraph, but they require further analysis, the result of which will be published in the Census Report in due course. It may be noted that the rise in the rate in the case of the North-Central Province probably is due to general prosperity resulting from the high price of paddy during the rice shortage in 1919 and 1920, as well as to the immigration of railway construction labour.

7. The Districts.—Of the districts, Mannar and Puttalam show nett decreases of 1.2 per cent. and 10.4 per cent., respectively. Of these, the former appears to be ascribable to influenza and malaris, while the latter is due to the St. Anna's pilgrimage being in progress at the time of the 1911 Census, the exclusion of the 6,467 pilgrims changing the deficit of 10.4 per cent. into a gain of about 7 per cent. Galle town shows a decrease of 2.2. as against an increase of 7.5 per cent. in 1901–1911, the difference

* Including pilgrims at St. Anna's, excluding these, rate is 20.9.

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being ascribable principally to trade depression. Of the other districts, Anuradhapura and Badulla have been dealt with as North-Central and Uva Provinces; while of the rest, all show a decrease in the rate of increase, except Nuwara Eliya, Hambantota, and Trincomalee. The comparative percentage rates of increase are the following :--Colombo 11.6 in 1911-1921, against 15.8 in 1901-1911; Kalutara 15.8, against 21.6; Kandy 5.9, against 7; Matale 7.6, against 17.5; Jaffna, 1.2, against 8.7; Mullaittivu 7.9, against 11.9; Galle, 9.2, against 13.6; Matara 4.9, against 11.6; Batticaloa 3.1, against 6.1; Kurunegala 15.5, against 23; Chilaw 16.8, against 17.8; Ratnapura 22.3, against 24.85 Kegalla 13.9, against 28.5.

8. Religions.—The four principal religions of Ceylon are Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Muhammadanism, the percentage proportions of the followers of these four religions to the total population in 1921 being respectively 61.6, 21.8, 9.9, and 6.7. The same proportions in 1911 were 60, 23, 10, 7. In 1911–1921 the Buddhists have increased by 11.9, against 15.5 per cent. in 1901–1911; the Hindus by 4.6, against 13.4; the Christians by 8.4, against 17.2; the Muhammadans by 6.6, against 15.2. The allocation of the fall in increase among the Provinces and Districts is being worked out and the causes investigated.

9. Sex.—While in most countries the proportions of males and females in the population do not differ greatly, in the West there appears to be a tendency for the females to outnumber the males, but in the East the opposite is more often the case. The 1921 figures for Ceylon are 529 males and 471 females in every 1,000 persons, figures almost identical with the 1911 results, which showed 530 males per 1,000. The 1921 figures for India give 514, for England, largely owing to the war, 480, while for Germany, according to the Census taken in October, 1919, the proportion was 476 for the same reason. In only one of the Provinces of Ceylon, the Northern, do the females exceed the males, and that only by less than 400 out of about 375,000 persons; the largest proportion of males is 569 per 1,000 in the North-Central Province. Of the Districts and Municipalities, the following have an excess of females:—Jaffna, 489 males per mille; Galle Municipality, 499; Galle District, 493; Batticaloa, 499. The highest proportion of males is found in Colombo Municipality, 613, while the others vary between that figure and 501. It would appear that the excess of females, in several of the instances quoted, is due to the emigration of the males to other districts in search of work. On the whole, the proportions are very much the same as those obtained in 1911, which showed the Northern Province and Jaffna and Galle Districts as containing an excess of females. Of the various races, the following are the proportions of males per mille :— Low-country Sinhalese, 522; Kandyan Sinhalese, 528; Ceylon Tamils, 508; Indian Tamils, 555; Ceylon Moors, 522; Others, 811. The proportions are generally similar to those obtained in 1911.

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10. Literacy.—The expression "able to read and write" is liable to considerable variation of interpretation by different enumerators, but, pending further investigation of the error—almost certainly one of overstatement—it may be assumed that approximately the same standards were applied in 1911 and 1921, and that the results are comparable within reasonable limits of error. As was to have been expected from the spread of education, the percentage of literates to population has increased, often substantially, in all the Provinces and Districts. The 1921 percentage of literates to total pouplation is 34, against 26.4 in 1911; the proportion of male literates to male population is 48.4 per cent. against 40.4 per cent., and for females 17.9, against 10.6. Not only have the numbers of literates of both sexes increased in every Province and District, but the rate of increase and the proportion in the population have also largely increased. The percentage of literates to population, of male literates to males, of female literates to females are shown for the various Provinces in the following table :—

TABLE No. I.—Percentage of literates to total population, literate males to total males, literate females to total females in each Province at the 1911 and 1921 Censuses.

Province.		Pe	rson	з.		D	lales	s.		\mathbf{Fe}	male	s.
		1911.		1921.		1911.		1921.		1911.		1921.
Ceylon	••	26.4	••	33 • 7	••	40 · 4	••	48·2	••	10.6	••	17•9
Western		36.0		44 • 4		48.9		55.7	••	21.2		31.5
Northern		28.9	••	37 · 9		47·4	••	54·8		10 .6	••	21 · 1
North-Western		28·3	••	$37 \cdot 3$		44 · 6	••	5 4 · 6	••	8.1	••	15.7
North-Central		24 • 2	••	29 · 9		42·1	• •	49 · 5	••	2·0	••	3.8
Southern	••	$24 \cdot 1$	••	$32 \cdot 4$	• •	38 · 3	••	47 · 5		9.5	••	17 · 3
Sabaragamuwa		20.5	••	$27 \cdot 2$		3 4 · 3	••	42 •6		3.2	••	8.7
Central		19.6	••	25.6	••	32 · 4	••	39·8	••	4 · 9	••	9.7
Eastern		18.0	••	$23 \cdot 2$		30.6	••	38 • 4	••	4.7	••	7.6
Uva		15.0	••	19-4		$26 \cdot 3$	••	31 · 8	••	2 · 2	• •	5.5

The figures of the literacy of the different races, religions, &c., are not yet available, but will be published in due course. The whole question will receive full treatment in the Census Report.

11. English Literacy.—It was to be expected that the increasing demand for English education in Ceylon would be reflected in the Census figures, and this is found to be the case. The proportion per 1,000 of the population of English literates has risen to 32 from 23 in 1911; the proportion for males is 44, against 33 per mille, and of females 17, against 12. The highest proportions are found in the Municipalities, namely, Colombo, male English literates 211 per mille of males, females 145; Kandy, males 239, females 159; Galle, males 139, females 59. The corresponding figures for 1911 being Colombo 170, 114; Kandy 198, 133; Galle 100, 44.

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12. Races.—Of the 10 races separately shown in the Gazette Tables, the Low-country Sinhalese in 1921 amounted to about 43 per cent. of the total population; Kandyan Sinhalese to $24 \cdot 2$ per cent.; Ceylon Tamils to 11.4 per cent.; Indian Tamils to 13.5 per cent.; Ceylon Moors to 5.6 per cent.; Indian Moors to .7 per cent.; Europeans to .2 per cent.; Burghers to .6 per cent.; Malays to .3 per cent.; Veddas to .1 per cent. This distribution does not show any substantial alteration since 1911. 13. Low-country Sinhalese.—This race forms over 80 per cent. of the populations of the following Districts :—Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Chilaw, and it is present in all the other districts in varying proportions. Its numbers show a nett decrease in the Districts of Mannar, Puttalam, and Badulla, and in Galle Municipality; and its rate of increase in 1911–1921, both in Ceylon and in the districts in most cases, shows a fail as against 1901–1911 in sympathy with the fall of the rate of increase of the total population. Thus, its Island rate of increase in 1911–1921 was 12.3 per cent., against 17.7 per cent. in the previous decade. Its rates of increase in 1911–1921 in certain of the districts are the following :—Colombo (excluding the Municipality) 12.4 per cent., against 13.8 in 1901–1911; Kalutara 15.6 per cent., against 18.4; Galle 7.9, against 2.5; Matara 4.2, against 12.2; Hambantota 8 per cent., against 5.3; Chilaw 16.3 per cent., against 19.9.

14. Kandyan Sinhalese.—This race forms over 50 per cent. of the population in the Districts of Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Ratnapura, Kegalla. Its numbers show an increase in all these districts. Its percentage rates of increase in 1911–1921 in the main districts are the following :—Kandy (excluding the Municipality) 9, against 19.8 in 1901–1911; Matale 4.3, against 17.6; Nuwara Eliya 10.6, against 15.7; Kurunegala 5.8, against 15.4; Anuradhapura 6.2, against 4.8; Badulla 2.9, against 6.4; Ratnapura 13.3, against 11.8; Kegalla 15.2, against 21.9.

15. Ceylon Tamils.—This race forms over 50 per cent. of the population in the Districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaittivu, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. In these districts the percentage rates of increase in 1911–1921 are approximately the following:—Jaffna, '7 per cent.; Mannar, —4'3 per cent.; Mullaittivu, 6'6 per cent.; Batticaloa decrease of '6 per cent.; Trincomalee, 9 per cent. A comparison with 1901–1911 figures is only possible for the total of Ceylon and Indián Tamils as a whole, the comparative increases being Jaffna '9 in 1911–1921, against 8'5 in 1901–1911; Mannar '6, against '9; Mullaittivu 6'6, against 10'5; Batticaloa '9, against 5'1; and Trincomalee 8, against '96.

16. Indian Tamils. —The predominance of this race in any district is due to its forming 87.4 per cent. of the estate population, and its rates of increase in the various districts differ little from those of the estate population. The percentage rates of increase in certain of the districts are the following :— Kalutara, 21.8 per cent.; Kandy, decrease of .7 per cent.; Matale, 10.6 per cent.; Galle, 84.6 per cent.; Matara, 67.4 per cent.; Ratnapura, 65.5 per cent.; Kegalla, decrease of 7.6 per cent. The comparative increase for Ceylon and Indian Tamils as a whole are Kalutara 22.9 in 1911–1921, against 70.4 in 1901–1911; Kandy .1, against —5.8 per cent.; Matale 10.6, against 15.2 per cent.; Galle 82.5, against 7.2 per cent.; Matara 60.1, against —16.4 per cent.; Ratnapura 64.8, against 63.8 per cent.; Kegalla —6.8, against 44.7 per cent.

17. Ceylon Moors.—This race is found chiefly in Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Puttalam Districts, where their proportion to the total population in the districts was over 30 per cent. They formed 11 per cent. of the population in Colombo Municipality, 12 per cent. in Kandy Municipality, and 21 per cent. in Galle Municipality, and showed at this Census an increase in every district, except in Mannar District and Galle Municipality.

18. Europeans.—The total Europeans in Ceylon form '19 per cent. of the Island population, and of the total of 8,421, 36 '6 per cent. were enumerated in Colombo Municipality, about 12 '2 in Kandy District, 13 '3 in Nuwara Eliya District, about 6 '7 per cent. in Badulla, 2 '9 per cent. in Ratnapura, about 3 '3 per cent. in Kegalla District, and smaller proportions in the others. The rate of increase of the Europeans in Ceylon in 1911–1921 (from 7,592 to 8,421) was 10 '9 per cent., against 20 '5 in 1901–1911. In 1921 2,682 Europeans were enumerated on estates, as against 2,365 in 1911, an increase of about 13 '4 per cent. Of this total, 55 per cent. were enumerated in Central Province, 764 on estates in Kandy District, 173 in Matale, 527 in Nuwara Eliya. In the other districts, 163 are included in Kalutara District, 389 in Badulla, 181 in Ratnapura, 255 in Kegalla, and smaller numbers in the rest, for example, 72 in Galle, 22 in Matara, 43 in Kurunegala.

19. Burghers and Eurasians.—These form '6 per cent. of the Island population. The largest proportions, as to be expected, are found in the three Municipalities. This population has increased during the decade by 89.6 per cent. in Colombo District, 31.2 per cent. in Kalutara District, 32.4 in Ratnapura District, 26.7 in Kurunegala District, and 26.2 in Galle District.

20. The Estate Population.—This population amounted in 1921 to 568,800 persons, of which • total, 37.4 per cent. is found in Kandy District, 62.8 per cent. in Nuwara[Eliya, 35.7 per cent. in Badulla, 21 per cent. in Kegalla, 11.4 per cent. in Kalutara, 29.9 per cent. in Matale, 4.5 per cent. in Kurunegala, 2.1 per cent. in Colombo, 4.1 per cent. in Galle, 2.2 per cent. in Matale, 4.5 per cent. of the other districts. Of the estate races, the figures show Indian Tamils as constituting 87.4 per cent. of the total, but it may be noted that all Tamils on estates have been taken as Indian pending further inquiry, the expected difference of the final figures being small. No Ceylon Tamils, therefore, appear at present in the estate figures, but all the other races are represented, the Low-country Sinhalese amounting to 6.5 per cent. of the total estate population, the Kandyans to 3 per cent. and the others to small proportions of under 7 per mille. The Europeans on the estates amount to 2,682 persons. With regard to the estate religions, 81.6 per cent. of the estate population are Hindus, 9 per cent. Buddhists, 8 per cent. Christians, 1.5 per cent. Muhammadans. The percentage of estate literates to estate population is 17.9, of male literates to males 27.5, of female literates to females 7.

20. Rates of Increases of the Estate Population.—The rate of increase of the estate population in 1911–1921 was 10.8 per cent., against 16.3 per cent. in 1901–1911. The fall of the rate of increase is, no doubt, due to the planting crisis and to the influenza pandemic, the relative effects of which are being investigated. The Indian Tamils increased in 1911–1921 at the rate of 8.1 per cent., against 13 per cent. in 1901–1911; the Low-country Sinhalese at 46.5 per cent., against 54.7 per cent.; Kandyan Sinhalese at 33.8 per cent., against 63.5 per cent.; Europeans at 13.4 per cent., against 13.7 per cent. The district rates of change in 1911–1921 varied from 78.7 per cent. in Galle District to -9.8 per cent. in Kegalla District, the only other estate district showing a decrease being Chilaw (--7 per cent.). With

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regard to increase of estate literacy, it may be noted that the 1911 percentage of literates to population was about $12 \cdot 2$, the 1921 figure being 17.9. In 1911 the male literates amounted to 20.7 per cent. of the males, and the female literates to $2 \cdot 2$ per cent. of the females, the 1921 figures being 27.5 per cent. and 7 per cent. Of the estate religions, the Buddhists have increased by 51.9 per cent., against $47 \cdot 2$ per cent. in 1901–1911; the Hindus by 7.1 per cent., against 17 per cent.; the Muhammadans by 14 per cent., against 20.7 per cent.; and the Christians by 16 per cent., against 21 per cent. Fuller details with regard to the distribution of the variations, the importance of improved population returns from estates, and such conclusions as are possible as to the causes of the fluctuations will be given in the Census Report.

Towns.-Numerous changes of the limits of the towns have delayed the preparation of 21. comparable figures for 1911 and 1921, and only very brief notes on the urban population are possible at this stage. If, for the present, it is assumed that the "urban" population includes the population enumerated in the 35 towns, shown in the Gazette returns—i.e., places which have a Municipality, a Local Board, or a Board of Health and Improvement, or which have been proclaimed for purposes of medical registration of deaths—it is found that this population amounts in 1921 to 578,300 persons, against a total in 1911 of 502,800, an increase of 15 per cent., part of which is due to extension of limits, and the proclamation of three new towns. In 1921 this population formed 14.7 per cent. of the total population (excluding the estates, military, and shipping), the corresponding percentage in 1911 for the towns as they then stood being 14. This increase of the urban percentage is small, and it is noticeable that the percentage increase of the population of the various towns in 1911-1921 is, in general, very much less than in the 1901-1911. In 1901-1911 the town of Trincomalee only showed a nett decrease, but in 1911-1921 the towns of Nawalapitiya, Hatton-Dikoya, Mannar, Galle, Hambantota, showed an actual fall in the comparable figures, while Minuwangoda, Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, as they stood in 1921, held a smaller population than they did in 1911. Small town populations are, of course, liable to more erratic fluctuations than those of districts or provinces, but it is probable that further inquiry will show that the war conditions and the influenza pandemic were ruling causes in most of the towns as in the Island as a whole. This appears to have been specially the case with regard to Colombo town, the heavy fall in the rate of increase of which from 32.5 per cent. in 1901-1911 to 12 per cent. in 1911-1921 is, perhaps, the oustanding feature of the recent Census. The nett decrease in Galle town is ascribed to trade depression; that in Nawalapitiya is due to the plague epidemic of 1919, that in Nuwara Eliya probably to change of limits; while the others are under inquiry. Substantial percentage increases are found in the following towns:—Anuradhapura (45.2, against 32.4 in the previous decade), Kurunegala (21.1, against 25.9); Bandarawela (14.1, against 178.3); Negombo (12.8, against 17.3); Gampola (12.3, against 45.6). In these rates of increase allowance has been made for extension of the town limits. It may be noted that the three chief towns of India show the following percentage rates of increase:—Calcutta 3.4 in 1911–1921, against 10.4 in 1901–1911; Bombay 19.8, against 26.2; Madras *8, against 1.8. The percentage of literates in the urban population of Ceylon in 1921 is 48.3; the proportion of male literates to male population is 58.1, and for females 35.2. The comparison of these figures with the rates for the rural population (viz., 32, 46.9 and 15.6) shows clearly the higher percentage of literacy in towns, particularly as regards the female population.

The Maldives .- The second Census of the Maldive Islands was taken during the early 22. months of 1921. The difficulties of enumerating the very numerous and scattered islands were promptly and efficiently overcome by the Maldivian Government, and the returns were published in the Ceylon Government Gazette of October 7, 1921. The total population enumerated amounted to 70,199 persons, a decrease of 2.8 per cent. from the 1911 figure of 72,237, reported to be due to influenza and food shortage in 1919 and 1920. The proportion of males to 1,000 of the total population is 541, showing, like Ceylon and India, an excess of males. The percentage of literates in the total population is dely, showing, like coyien a high figure, due to the fact that "children of both sexes are required to read the Koran, under the tuition of the minor priests, from the age of three or four" (Mr. H. C. P. Bell's Report). The rate of The rate of male literates per 100 males is about 44.9 and for females 36.6. Both these rates show a fall from the 1911 figures of 47 per cent. and 44 per cent., which is probably due to a more careful enumeration on this occasion. The higher rate of literacy in the Maldives as compared with Ceylon (41 per cent. against 33.7) is seen to be due to the greater literacy of females (36.6 against 17.9). The religion as exclusively Muhammadan, and the race is almost entirely Maldivian. The list of occupations shows the largest number as fisherman (14,760), while the other occupations with over 1 per cent. of the population are coir makers (females), labourers, lace makers (females), cultivators, toddy drawers, thatch makers, carpenters, sail makers, and Koran teachers. Of the 13 atolls that comprise the Maldives, details have so far been received for only Male Island—the Capital of the Maldives and the residence of the Sultan. The population enumerated amounted to 6,127 persons—an increase of 17 per cent. on the 1911 figure of 5,236—and included 137 Indian Boras, 22 Malabaries, and 58 Ceylon Moors, who were the only persons of any foreign race in the Maldives at the time of the Census. The proportion of males to 1,000 persons was 548 (540 in 1911), and the percentages of literacy were 61 5 for males, 51 4 for females, and 56 9 for persons of both sexes. Of the Maldivians in Male 1.6 per cent. were Government Servants, 2.8 traders, 2.8 fishermen, 5.9 lace makers, 13.8 dependents on Government, 15.1 domestic servants, and 53.8 dependents. As in 1911, a report on the Census of the Maldives will form a part of the Ceylon Census Report (1921).

Census Office, Colombo, October 20, 1921.

L. J. B. TURNER, Superintendent of Census.

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Addendum to the Statements already published in the "Government Gazettes" of September 30 and October 7, 1921.

Census, 1921.-Population of Ceylon (including Estates, Military, Shipping, and Miscellaneous) at the Censuses of 1921 and 1911 by Literacy, Religion, and Race.

Note.--The figures are provisional.

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* Lett blank as the religion-distribution of the shipping population is not available by sex.