

first census of its kind taken in any country. The nation then numbered some 50 000, which bad years and plagues during the eighteenth century reduced by 3000, so that in 1801 the country had but 47 000 inhabitants. During the nineteenth century the population again increased, and in 1880 it was rather more than 72 000, while between 1880 and 1890 there was again a decline of 1500, caused by the exodus to America which in that decade reached its culmination, the number of emigrants exceeding that of immigrants by 6300. But since 1890 there has been a steady increase as shown by the following figures, obtained from general decennial census returns:

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Number of population in 1890 . . . | 70 927 |
| — " — - 1901 . . . | 78 470 |
| — " — - 1910 . . . | 85 183 |
| — " — - 1920 . . . | 94 690 |
| — " — - 1929 | about 106 000 |

During the last 9 years (1920—1929) the average annual increase has been 1.26 per cent.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

The population consists *almost exclusively of Icelanders*. The census of 1920 shows that only 710 persons, or 0.7 per cent., were born out of Iceland. Of these, 352 were born in Denmark, 205 in the other Scandinavian countries, and 153 elsewhere.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century there was a considerable *emigration* from Iceland to America, particularly to Canada. The highest figures were reached in 1887, when about 2000 persons emigrated. In this (the 20th) century there was some emigration (averaging about 200 a year) up to the Great War, when it practically stopped. The exact number of Icelanders resident in America is not known, but probably it does not exceed 25 000, most of them living in Canada, especially in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while some 5600 are citizens of the United States (cfr. the U. S. census 1920).

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO SEX, AGE AND CONJUGAL CONDITION

As already mentioned, the population of Iceland at the census of 1920 numbered 94 960. Of this total, 46 172 were *males*, 48 518 *females*. To every 1000 males there were thus 1051 females. This difference is greater than it was in other European countries till the Great War broke out and reduced the number of males much more than that of