

THE CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1946.

By STANLEY LYON, Director, Statistics Branch.

[Read on Thursday, 25th April, 1946.]

At decennial intervals a Census of Population of Ireland (since 1922 the Twenty-Six Counties of Éire) is normally taken. There has of late years been an urge in many countries to shorten the interval from ten to five years because of the fast-changing conditions occurring in the world, particularly since the end of hostilities in Europe in 1918. The first Irish Census of the kind as we know it to-day was for the year 1821 and ten years was the regular interval up to 1911. In 1921 conditions in the State were so disturbed that the taking of a Census would have been fraught with possibilities of failure and accordingly the Census was deferred. Thus it happened that in 1926 when political conditions in the country were more stable a Census was taken, making a 15 years' interval. The second decennial interval since then occurs this year and it has been decided that a Census of the Population should be taken in 1946. The date chosen should coincide with the period of the year at which the bulk of the population is least mobile and would be residing in their own homes and not be away on holidays, etc. Census date 1946 has been fixed by Order for Sunday, 12th May. A short account of Census taking in general, and of the earlier Irish Censuses in particular, will be found in the Introductory Chapter of the General Report (Vol X) of the 1926 Census (P. 1242—1934) and in papers which I read before this Society, notably the papers on the 1936 Census (April, 1936) and on the Organisation of Official Statistics (March, 1933).

It will be remembered that sometime after the outbreak of the recent war, on account of shortage of essential supplies of Food and Clothing, the Government decided to introduce a system of rationing and that a Register of the Population was taken in November, 1941, and again in December, 1943, for the purpose of providing the (then) Department of Supplies with a list of the names and addresses of all persons in the State to whom Ration Books should be issued. These enumerations are not regarded as Censuses of the Population, notwithstanding that each individual was accounted for and that, for identity purposes, in addition to name and address, particulars relating to sex, age and marital condition, were obtained. The particulars collected at the 1941 Register were summarised and published in a Report (P. 6506—1944)—tabular matter and analyses—showing for counties and other areas the population cross-classified by sex, age, age groups and conjugal condition. The year 1941 was a year halfway between two Censuses and opportunity was taken to construct and publish in the Report two sets of Life Tables, one for Éire as a whole and the other for the "Urban Areas" only. No compilation was made from the original schedules of the 1943 Register except the grouping together for counties and county boroughs of such summaries as were made by the individual enumerators to ensure complete coverage of the population residing in all parts of the State. A special feature in the Registra-

tion schedules was the provision of a question as to the home address of all persons who did not normally form part of the household but who happened to be residing in the particular dwelling on the night of the inquiry. This arrangement facilitated the distribution by post of the Ration Books, and was not an attempt to ascertain the *de jure* population of localities, as the contra-information was not requested concerning those who normally lived in the dwelling but happened to be absent from the State on Census night.

In the preliminary stages of Census taking, and before the contents of the actual Census Schedule are determined, one of the first steps taken by the authorities is to inquire from all Government Departments and from a number of responsible semi-official and non-official Public Organisations as to what particular questions, in addition to the staple questions referring to name, age, conjugal condition, religion, occupation and industry, they would suggest for inclusion on the schedule. Amongst the Organisations consulted was the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland. At a meeting of the Council on 8th December, 1945, they appointed a special Census Committee, consisting of Dr. J. P. Beddy, who agreed to act as Convenor, Professor Busted, Mr. Patrick Bourke, the late Professor T. W. T. Dillon and Mr. Hamilton Shaw, F.I.A., to consider the matter and make recommendations. As the reference to your Society was marked "Urgent" the Council authorised the Committee to communicate their results direct to the Statistics Branch, Department of Industry and Commerce, who, as heretofore, are responsible for the taking of the Census of Population. The report submitted by the Committee appears as an Appendix to this paper and contained many important suggestions, some of which, I am glad to say, it was found both desirable and possible to include on the schedule. These are the reference to the duration of residence in Éire of persons who were born outside Ireland; the re-introduction of the questions relating to fertility of marriage and dependency; the date of present marriage in the case of all married women; instead of asking "age" to inquire month and year of birth which, by deduction, gives the age of the individual; and the expansion in the heading for "Occupation and Employment" of the instruction relating to retired persons. Other suggestions were received from Labour Organisations, the Commission of Inquiry into Juvenile Unemployment, Department of Finance, Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Local Government and Public Health, Department of Justice, Department of Education and Department of Defence. A conference was held of representatives of the Public Departments which had sent in suggestions, and after detail discussion on the various suggestions put forward, a draft schedule was drawn up which, with some minor alterations, was submitted to the Minister for Industry and Commerce for approval.

The pattern of the Census schedule to be used on this occasion differs considerably from those used for former Irish Censuses. Instead of a separate line being provided for each person residing in the household, or institution, the information is to be recorded in a separate column for each person or, in other words, instead of the questions being cited in cross-headings on the form they appear downwards in the first column of the form. The use of the new style of form is not an innovation in Census-taking, as was evident from inspection of Census schedules used in some other countries. The

Household Schedule, or Form A as it is generally known, is printed bi-lingually in Irish on one side and in English on the other; either side can be used. In most countries Census forms are not printed bi-lingually and the reverse side of the form usually contains a set of detailed instructions with examples as to how the form should be filled. The change in the style of the schedule was made principally for two reasons. First, it is possible to insert on the form itself fuller instructions as to how the questions should be answered; previously a separate sheet of instructions entitled "Memorandum A" was left at each dwelling by the Enumerators along with the household schedule. A reproduction of the Memorandum A appears in the Appendix to the Final Reports of the 1926 and 1936 Censuses. The separate Memorandum of instructions frequently got mislaid and was not at hand when the Census schedule was being completed, with the result that the enumerators had often to assist in completing the schedule. There is ample internal evidence, particularly in the returns from rural areas, that the *Gárdaí*, who act as enumerators, assist in this way. The compiling authorities are deeply indebted to the *Gárdaí* for the help they give in this direction. Then, in the second place, the coding on the Census returns and the subsequent machine-punching of the personal card can more readily be done by reading perpendicularly than horizontally. A further reason for the "column" instead of the "line" style of schedule was the decision to incorporate, on the Census form, questions from which it will be possible to make a national survey of the nature of the water supply and of the sanitary facilities available to households, particularly in rural areas, and the inclusion of a question relating to occupancy of dwellings and amount of rent paid. The recently issued White Paper on National Income and Expenditure (P. No. 7356) drew attention to the deficiency in not having available reliable data on which to base Estimates of the amount of National Expenditure paid by way of Rent each year.

The changes in the matter on the Census Form A as compared with those used at recent Censuses may be divided into three groups: (1) the repetition of special inquiries made at earlier Censuses, (2) a change merely in the form of the question or some small additional information asked for, and (3) entirely new matter.

The repetition of special inquiries includes the two special inquiries, one relating to Unemployment and the other to Particulars of Present Marriage, which appeared on the 1936 and the 1926 Census Forms respectively. The "Unemployment" question asks for information from all employees, i.e., persons normally employed for a salary or wage, whether at work or out of work on Census date, as to whether they experienced any spell of unemployment during the 12 months period preceding Census date, and, if so, to state the aggregate duration of such spell or spells, classified according to the following causes: (a) unable to find work, though able and willing to work, (b) personal sickness or injury, and (c) all other causes (strikes, lockouts, illness in the home, etc.). The question should be answered in respect of all employees but not by employers, persons working on own account or persons assisting relatives. The manner in which the replies to the special "Unemployment" question were given at the 1936 Census was disappointing. Replies were given for only 77 per cent. of the males and 66 per cent. of the females for

whom information should have been furnished. It is hoped that at the forthcoming Census greater attention will be paid to the answering of this question, the instructions regarding which have been made more explicit, and that it may be found possible to publish the results in absolute numbers rather than have to express them in percentage form. The results of this inquiry made in 1936 were published in the Census Volume on "Industrial Status".

The question "Particulars of Present Marriage" asks in respect of each married woman the date of present marriage and the number of children born alive to the present marriage. The replies to this question will provide information on the subject of the fertility of marriage and will enable comparisons to be made with the position as revealed at the 1926 Census, the figures for which were not included in the Census Report for that year. The Population Problem is attracting world-wide attention because of the declining and ageing populations in many of the more civilised countries and its investigation calls for reliable data such as is asked for at a population Census. The International Institute of Statistics set up a special Commission to investigate and report on the subject. A Census inquiry takes into consideration those married women who have never had a child as well as all those mothers living in the State at Census time who have had children at any time during their present marriage, whereas a study of the subject based solely on birth records would take account only of those women who have actually given birth to a child in the period under review. It would be very helpful if all County and County Borough Medical Officers of Health would, for their Notifications of Births returns, make use of a form similar to that now used in the Dublin County Borough and in County Carlow. No difficulty seems to be experienced in either of these two areas in obtaining from the mother or other responsible person at the time of inquiry the desired particulars under the headings order of birth, age of mother at marriage, duration of present marriage, occupation of husband, etc. Statistics compiled from the latter returns would provide invaluable supplementary information to that obtained at a Census for the study of the Population Problem. A second part of this question relates to "Dependency" and asks in respect of every married man, widower or widow the number of *living* sons, daughters, step-sons and step-daughters under 16 years of age, whether residing in the household or elsewhere. The results of the inquiry made at the 1926 Census were published in a separate Volume (IX) and were found helpful for planning recent legislation dealing with the Children's Allowances scheme.

In the second group of minor changes in the form of the questions, instead of asking for the particular ages of individuals they are asked to state the month and year of birth. By deduction the ages are thus ascertained. At the 1941 Register of Population the age question was framed in this way and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining the particulars. Whereas one's age changes every year one's date of birth never changes and more reliable information in reference to the ages of the population, particularly those round about 40-50-60-70 years of age, is obtained. In the Report on the Register of Population, 1941, a special Appendix B was included which proved that by using the "year of birth" method rather than the "age last birthday" method a greater degree of accuracy was obtained in the statement of the ages of the population. In the

question "Personal Occupation" the instructions at previous Censuses were to state the precise branch of profession, trade, manufacture, service, etc. For the forthcoming Census the wording has been altered to read "state here precisely the craft or calling which each person is following"—wording which explains better the notion of personal occupation. Under the heading "Birthplace" information is sought, in respect of persons born outside Ireland, as to the length of time (in years) the individual has been normally resident in Ireland, ignoring temporary absences of, say, less than a month at a time.

The third group, entirely new matter, refers to information which was not sought at any previous Census. It may be sub-divided into two sections, one referring to information of a personal character and the other to information relating to the household or dwelling. The Government Commission at present inquiring into Juvenile Unemployment are hampered in their investigation through lack of statistical information in regard to the education standard of those juveniles who are not yet at work. For this purpose it was decided to include a special question relating to "Young Persons not yet at Work". Young persons are defined as being those between the ages of 14 and 19 years. They are asked to state in general terms the type of educational course, if any, which they are at present following, e.g., "University", "Secondary", "Technical", "Business College", "National School", etc. If the juveniles—the question applies to girls as well as to boys—are not following any educational course they are asked to say so and to state the period in years and months since last following a regular course of study.

The questions relating to the household or dwelling are "Nature of Occupancy of Dwelling", "Water Supply" and "Sanitary Facilities". These questions which are referred to in detail in the following paragraphs are to be answered only by occupants of private dwellings; if the dwelling is a hotel, boarding-house, barracks or other institution they need not be answered. For each of the questions a pre-determined exhaustive list of answers has been drawn up and printed on the Census Schedule. In front of each of these answers is a space thus and all the householder is required to do, is to insert the mark X in the space opposite whichever answer applies to his household. There are some supplementary questions which are to be answered simply by the words "Yes" or "No".

The question concerning the Nature of Occupancy of the dwelling requires the head of the household to state whether (1) the dwelling is owned by the occupier (including cases in which interest is being paid on mortgage), (2) the dwelling is rented unfurnished to the occupier, (3) the dwelling is rented furnished or part furnished, (4) the dwelling is being acquired by occupier on hire (or rent) purchase system (including Land Purchase Annuities), or (5) dwelling is occupied free of rent or at a nominal rental because of the nature of occupation, such as a caretaker, company official, employee, etc. Further, where rent is being paid as in (2) or (3) the amount of rent, stating whether by week, month or year, must be entered. The inquiry concerning Rent paid by tenants will provide data on which to base estimates of the total amount of money expended by the community in rent annually. The Revenue authorities may possibly have all these particulars but they may not disclose any information fur-

nished on individual schedules and, in fact, do not compile any such statistics. It will also be of interest in the economy of the State to know what proportion of the population themselves own the houses in which they dwell or perhaps it might be put in the reverse way—who do not own their homes and have to pay rent. The particulars of rents obtained in connection with the periodical Cost-of-Living inquiries are not as complete as might be desired; they are based on a small sample of houses controlled by Local Authorities. But as it is only the percentage change in the average level of rents from each half-yearly inquiry to the next that is wanted, the source is regarded as satisfactory enough for the purposes for which used. The much fuller Census survey should help to broaden the basis of these Cost-of-Living inquiries.

Human progress consists in the improvement of the social conditions under which the population pass their daily lives, as well as improvements in their economic position. Attention has for a long time been focussed on the Housing of the people and a large mass of statistics are available on this subject. At the 1946 Census an attempt is being made for the first time to investigate some other aspects bearing on the general standard of living, particularly of those who reside in rural areas and who have not the same amenities of civilisation that are available to the population residing in the larger urban areas. Éire's rural population is very scattered; over two-thirds of the total population live outside "Census" towns which are defined as "a cluster of not less than 20 houses"; accordingly, the degree of isolation in which the majority of the population live will be appreciated. The rural population or the agricultural community deserve well of the State and some attempt should be made to provide them with such amenities as can be provided. The Census will show the extent of the problem to be faced and the areas in which it is most acute. It is for others to suggest or devise ways and means.

The first of what may for convenience be termed the social or health questions relates to the source of water supply used by the members of the household for cooking and washing purposes. The inclusion of the questions on the Census schedule relating to Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities is to be welcomed, as only by this means can a national survey, based on information supplied directly by the householder, be made of these important matters affecting the daily lives of so large a proportion of the population. The constant fetching and carrying of water in all sorts of weather conditions, is one of the items of drudgery and discomfort attaching to residence in rural areas as contrasted with the towns. The lack of a piped water supply to dwellings in rural areas and the provision of modern lavatory accommodation is, perhaps, also one of the reasons for the continual drain of migration from the country to the towns. A certain volume of such migration may be desirable but it is alarming to note the gradual decline in the proportion of the rural population in a country whose main economy is agriculture. In the last half-century the proportion of rural population to total population has declined from 74 per cent. to 64 per cent.—assuming that "Urban" population represents the population of all towns of 1,500 and over and that "Rural" population constitutes the remainder of the population. The following are the Town and Rural populations in the Twenty-Six Counties as ascertained at Censuses since 1891:—

Year	Town population	Rural population	Total population	Rural as percentage of total
	In thousands			
1891	888	2,581	3,469	74
1901	911	2,311	3,222	72
1911	942	2,197	3,139	70
1926	959	2,013	2,972	68
1936	1,055	1,914	2,969	64

In urban areas the provision of adequate water supply is a matter for the Local Authorities who have constructed either reservoirs or else storage tanks of large capacity from which, through gravity, a piped water supply is laid on to houses. In such cases the head of the household is asked to state if the supply to his dwelling is used only by members of his household or whether it is shared in common with other households. Sometimes occupiers of a house or cluster of houses have a piped water supply into the houses, coming from a reservoir or storage tank which is not controlled by the Local Authority but is the property of an individual and for which they do not pay a public water rate. Here the mark X should appear opposite the description Pipe Supply, private. The same indication should be given in the case of a private dwelling in which water is driven or forced by a pump or other means from a well or spring to an overhead tank and from which it is piped to the rooms in the house. Where there is no piped water supply to the dwelling, occupiers are asked to state whether they get the water they require for daily use from a public pump under the control of the Local Authority or from a private pump; whether it is from a private well or, if as sometimes is the case, the water supply of the household is drawn from a flowing stream or other source. A question is asked in the case of houses where water is laid on, as to whether the dwelling is accommodated with a fixed bath. The head of the household is asked to insert in reply the word either "Yes" or "No".

The question relating to Sanitary Facilities should present little difficulty to occupiers of private dwellings in urban areas as they are nearly all of the flush lavatory type, but it is different in rural parts where conditions are not so uniform. They are asked to indicate their domestic sanitary facilities according to the following types: flush lavatory; chemical closet; privy or dry closet or no special facilities, and also to state whether such sanitary facilities as they have, are shared in common with other families or households and whether the dwelling or the household has an indoor lavatory, closet or privy. In each of the last two questions the replies should be either simply "Yes" or "No".

The last section on the schedule is to be completed by the enumerator and not by the head of the household. It refers to the type of household or dwelling to which the schedule refers. Dwellings are divided into the following classes: whole house occupied by a single private family; house occupied by more than one private family and let in flats (or tenements); private family occupying dwelling with shop attached worked by family; boarding-house,

lodging-house or hostel; establishment with employees living in; hotel or club; Military Barracks or Gárda Station; boarding-school; religious institution; other type of institution; vessel, barge, etc.; itinerant family. The enumerator is required in the case of Institutions to state the name of the Institution.

At the last Census a special compilation was made from the data collected relating to Housing to show the housing density of the population on the "equivalent adult" system. This took no account of infants under one year of age, and counted all those aged 1-9 years as equivalent to half an adult and each person aged 10 years or over as one adult. The equivalent number of adults obtained by this method from the actual number of persons was divided by the number of rooms in the dwellings occupied by them to obtain the housing density. The housing density statistics published at previous Censuses had been on the basis of counting each man, woman and child, irrespective of age, as one individual and it was anticipated that a better picture of relative housing density or general housing conditions would be obtained by compiling according to the equivalent adult system. In order to preserve continuity and to afford comparable figures with the past a compilation was also made on the old lines. Assuming standard housing conditions as being two persons per room, the compilation showed for the sub-standard portion of the population the following results.

Percentages of the Population overcrowded (more than 2 per room)

Persons	According to the actual number of persons	According to the number of equivalent adults
More than 2 but less than 3 per room	10·8	10·0
3 but less than 4 per room	6·5	4·2
4 or more per room	5·1	2·5
Total over 2 per room	<hr/> 22·5	<hr/> 16·6

A great deal of work was involved in the coding for the "equivalent adult" compilation as well as in the compilation itself and the final results as shown above would indicate that the dual-classification did not warrant the cost in labour and time expended on it. However, it was not possible to state, until after the experiments had been tried that the picture as presented by the new compilation did not materially alter the results arising out of the former compilation. In the Housing Volume (IV) of the Census Report all the principal tables are set out under both classifications. It is not proposed to compile Housing statistics according to the "equivalent adult" system at the 1946 Census.

In some countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary for instance) the "Occupation" question on the Census form asks for particulars of principal occupation and also of any secondary or accessory occupation which may be regularly followed by the individual. In Éire those enumerated are asked to state only their principal occupation or that on which the

The story the card tells is as follows. "The individual enumerated was an unmarried male, 32 years of age, living in the District Electoral Division of Killeenleagh, which is in the Dispensary District of Skibbereen and forms part of the (former) rural district of Skibbereen, County Cork W. This man is a carpenter working in a brewery and does not belong to a farming family. There are six persons in the household to which he belongs. Five are adults and there is one infant not yet a year old or else two children each between the ages of 1 and 10 years. The house they live in has four dwelling-rooms and, accordingly, the housing density conditions in which he lives are favourable inasmuch as there are less than two persons per room. He resides in the same county as that in which he was born and is a Roman Catholic. During the twelve months prior to Census date he had been unemployed for an aggregate period of three months due to incapacity arising out of an accident". All these particulars, together with his name, were recorded on the Census schedule. The name is for identity purposes in case any query has to be raised concerning the correctness of the return and is the only item which is not transferred to the card. By coding the information where necessary, it was possible to reproduce it all on the punched card; for example, the code number for carpenter, which is 414, is reproduced in the occupation columns 36, 37 and 38 and the code number for County Cork West, which is 11, is reproduced in columns 1 and 2. As already mentioned, where the information is given in numbers, for instance, the age 32, these figures are punched out in columns 30 and 31.

The 1936 Census card had only 45 columns and accordingly the number of questions asked on the schedule was governed by the amount of information that could be punched on a single card. It would of course have been possible to use two cards for each person but the amount of common information which would have to be punched on each card for cross-classification purposes would make the cost of compilation prohibitive. Since 1936 the makers of these types of machines have so re-designed them that they can now be used for a 65-column card (Powers-Samas) and an 80-column card (Hollerith). This extension of the capacity of the cards suggested the possibility, without adding greatly to the cost of compilation, of an extension in the scope of the 1946 Census inquiry, to include some important national statistics not previously recorded.

The publication of the results of the 1946 Census will again be by Subject Volumes and not by County and County Borough Volumes, as was the practice before the 1926 Census. All the information summarised cannot possibly be included in the tables of the published volumes of the Report, and a certain amount of discretion has to be exercised in deciding what tables shall be published. There is available in the Statistics Office a considerable amount of statistical information which is not published and which is available for administrative purposes and for consultation by students and others interested.

APPENDIX.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE,
STATISTICS BRANCH,
LOWER CASTLE YARD, SOUTH,
DUBLIN.

19th November, 1945.

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to inform you that it is proposed to take a Census of the Population early in 1946. The co-operation and advice of public and semi-public bodies is desired in order to secure that the Census will contain accurate and complete information on the subject matters of the inquiry, and you are accordingly requested to be so good as to furnish for the consideration of the Minister any recommendations for heading or headings which, in your opinion, should be included in the schedule.

The following were the headings on the schedule for the 1936 Census of Population :—

Name and surname.	Birthplace.
Relationship to head of household.	Irish language.
Sex.	Religion.
Age.	Personal occupation.
Marriage or orphanhood.	Employer's business.

In addition to the above there was a special inquiry related to period and cause of unemployment. At the 1926 Census the special inquiry related to fertility of marriage and dependency. A copy of the Household Form used for the 1936 Census is enclosed.

As the amount of information to be asked for in the schedule is limited, only suggestions for information of major importance should be forwarded. The favour of a reply within a fortnight would be appreciated.

Mise le meas,

STANLEY LYON,
Director.

The Hon. Secretary,
Statistical and Social Inquiry
Society of Ireland,
65 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin.

(A similar letter was sent to all Government Departments, to the Universities, Employers and Labour Organisations, Industrial Associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc.).

DUBLIN.

22nd December, 1945.

A Chara,

Census of Population, 1946.

On consideration of your letter of the 19th ultimo in regard to the forthcoming Census, the Council of the Society appointed a Committee to consider recommendations in regard to the headings of the Census form. On account of the urgency of the matter, the Committee were empowered to forward their recommendations direct to your office, and hence the following may be taken as an official expression of the Society's views:—

- (1) It is urged that the 1926 special inquiry, which related to fertility of marriage and dependency, should be repeated for 1946. The particulars sought should be such as to permit a survey of issue rates to married persons according to age and duration of marriage.
- (2) With regard to (1), the Committee suggests that, for married persons, if the husband, wife, or children (under some suitably selected age) reside elsewhere particulars should be given as to the names of such persons and their relationship, and whether they are residing (a) in Éire or (b) elsewhere. The adoption of this suggestion would mean that the size of the family would be shown on a single form, that information would be available as to the number of children who were receiving education in boarding schools, etc., both in Éire and elsewhere, and it would show also those cases where the husband is working outside Éire.
- (3) In Column D it is suggested that the date of marriage should be shown. This information would be particularly useful in conjunction with the dependency returns.
- (4) As regards Column E, the Committee suggests that the heading should be replaced by that which appears on page 73 of the 1941 Register of Population, in which, as you are aware, it was necessary to state the birthday and the year of birth.
- (5) As regards Column F, it is suggested that any person who was not born in Ireland should state the length of the period during which he or she has lived in Éire. The information would, firstly, give an indication of the numbers of persons who were in Éire on Census night but were here only for a short visit. In addition, it would provide an indication as to the numbers of foreigners who have come to this country only in recent years. The Committee considered whether the heading should be so drafted as to enable information to be obtained in regard to residents who were born in Northern Ireland, but decided against putting forward any suggestion on this matter.
- (6) In regard to Column G, it is suggested that, in addition to the four existing headings, a further heading should

be inserted between the existing No. 1 and 2 headings which would provide that the words "Irish (habitual)" should be written on the Census form opposite the names of persons who speak Irish habitually.

- (7) In regard to Column K, it would be of advantage if the note in regard to retired persons which appears in Memorandum A as No. 5 under the heading "Occupation and Employment" was inserted in this column. As the heading now stands a retired person must consult Memorandum A, and as there are, no doubt, a good many of such persons it was thought advisable to make the above suggestion.

Mise, le meas,

J. P. BEDDY,

(On behalf of the above-mentioned
Committee).

The Director of Statistics,
Department of Industry and Commerce,
Statistics Branch,
Lower Castle Yard,
DUBLIN.

DISCUSSION ON MR. LYON'S PAPER.

Mr. T. W. Freeman : In thanking Mr. Lyon very warmly for his paper, I would like to remind the meeting that Lord Stamp and others suggested that a Census should be taken in Great Britain in 1936; unfortunately this was not done, and it seems unlikely that a Census will be taken in 1946, or indeed before 1951. Conformity of date between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Eire therefore seems impossible. There are three main points on which more information would be useful:

(1) *Rural Population.*—The worker on population problems would like to know how many people are employed in the towns though living in the countryside; or again, where the seasonal migrants, as distinct from the permanent emigrants, have their homes. Perhaps a Census question might reveal the present location of those members of the family who had settled abroad. One knew that particular areas had contacts with certain parts of America or Great Britain, but it would be useful to have more specific information.

(2) *Social Problems.*—A recent survey by members of the Geographical Society showed that many people had to walk as much as 100 yards to their water supply in a rural area studied, and that while the electric cables passed through the area, it was used for lighting only in the town. One is therefore grateful for the new enquiries into social welfare questions that the Census is to make.

(3) *Land.*—The buying of land by those not living on it is sometimes regarded as a social evil, and a Census enquiry will therefore be useful. Another social problem, discussed in many of the Congested Districts' Board Reports, is the extent of conacre lettings through the country; possibly also the Census, or some other enquiry, might reveal its extent.

Finally, the Census Reports are of enormous value both to the student

of population and to the general public. Owing so much to their present excellence, one asked for more and viewed with pleasure the obvious interest of its architects in the social welfare of the community.

Mr. D. H. Shaw : The increasing amount of data sought on the Census Form is likely to be a problem for the householder as well as for the officials in the Department who are required to handle the data. This may result in less accuracy in the vital statistics relating to the population which are the essential purpose of the Census. The limit to the capacity of the card form used for recording the information given need not restrict the number of questions on the Census Form as two or more cards can readily be used for each form with the assistance of the Reproducer machine. This machine will transfer essential data from one card to another, and only the further information from the Census Form needs to be punched on to the second card. It would not be necessary to completely repunch each card.

Particulars of the date of present marriage and the total number of children born alive would not be sufficient to permit a ready calculation of issue rates applicable to married persons according to age and duration of marriage. It will be a considerable advance if the full information is obtained on the Census Form as suggested in the letter from the special Census Committee appointed by the Council.

Dr. Geary said that he wished to comment on a few of Professor Duncan's queries. The trend in population prior to 1821 is a question of great interest and of an importance which far transcends the merely historical. In his (Dr. Geary's) view the hearth money and other well-known figures were considerable underestimates of the population. At this stage this view must be regarded as conjectural, but there were strong indications that the percentage increases in population between, say, 1750 and 1821 were quite similar in Ireland and England.

In regard to the question of duration of unemployment, Dr. Geary agreed that statistics collected at Censuses in regard to physical disability were always under-stated. The only reason why a distinction was made between (1) economic unemployment, (2) sickness, etc., and (3) other causes was in order to ensure that question (1) was properly answered.

Professor Duncan asked, if questions were included in the Census on Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities, why should questions not be asked about proximity to cinemas and publichouses. Dr Geary would reply with another question: "Why Not?"

In regard to the 1914-19 age group, probably the greatest social problem which the last two Censuses revealed was the large number of persons at these ages who were returned as never having had a job. The question in regard to education on the latest Census schedule was designed to throw some light on this matter. It was also hoped to relate this juvenile under-employment to family circumstances as was done in regard to the unemployment at all ages at the special census of unemployment of 1934.

Mr Lyon, in replying to the vote of thanks, thanked the previous speakers for the appreciative manner in which they had referred to the paper. The points raised by Professor Duncan were of interest and could easily be answered. In the introductory chapter on the General Report on the 1926 Census reference is made to the estimates of population at Censuses prior to 1821, while our recent Censuses had been taken

in years ending in 6, it was most desirable, for purposes of international comparisons, to get into line with other countries, in most of which the Census is taken in a year ending in 0 or 1. Perhaps this could be brought about with the establishment of quinquennial Censuses. The figures of population compiled from the Registers of Population taken in 1941 and 1943 could be regarded, generally speaking, as accurate as the ordinary Census figures. The information supplied from the question "Out of Work at Census date" would not give a fair idea of the problem of unemployment in the State and, accordingly, there is a question on the form asking for particulars of unemployment in the 12 months period preceding Census date. The questions relating to "Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities" are items entering into the daily needs of the population and about which, particularly in rural areas, information is desirable. This matter was referred to by Mr. Mortished, and he was informed that inquiries of this kind would not be regular features of a Census, but would be amongst those subjects about which inquiries would be made very occasionally. With the development of rural electrification there is no reason why power supply by electricity should not be used for the provision of piped water supply for those dwellings which are not now provided with it. Mr. Freeman referred to the desirability of taking Censuses in years ending in 1 as in the United Kingdom. He was referred to the fact that the last Census for Northern Ireland was for the year 1937. He objected to the use of the definition "Rural Population" in one part of the paper to those residing outside clusters of 20 houses and in another part of the paper to those residing outside towns of less than 1,500 population. Perhaps it would have been better to refer to the latter as "Town Population." It would not be possible from the Census to obtain particulars of migratory labourers. These statistics would have to be obtained from some other source.