RETURN

To an Order of the House for a Return showing the corrected census reports from the Dominion Government of the population of British Columbia; showing the number of whites, Chinese and Indians on the Mainland; also the number of whites, Chinese and Indians on Vancouver Island.

JAMES BAKER,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
14th February, 1894.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 2nd day of September, 1893.

The Committee of Council having had under consideration the decennial census returns for the year 1891, which gives the total population of British Columbia 98,173, and upon the basis of which number, the per capita grant, under section 3 of the Terms of Union, has been made; and the Government having deemed it advisable to apply to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa for details of the returns, as furnished to the Department, by the several census enumerators, and having received from the Department a return giving the following result:—

	Whites.	Indians.	Chinese.	Half-breeds.	Total.
A.—Vancouver Island	27,997	5,440	3,299	29	36,765
B.—Mainland	37,293	17,823	6,088	201	61,405
C.—British Columbia (total)	65,290	23,263	9,387	230	98,170

observe that the total obtained from these returns substantially agrees with the total given in the official returns (*see* page 366, volume 1), there being a difference of only three.

The Committee, on comparing the total number of Indians, as given in the Official Census Returns for 1891—namely, 23,263—with the census returns for the same year issued by the Department of Indian Affairs (*see* pages 247 to 252), find a difference, in the Indian population, of 11,939; the Indian population of the Province, as given by the Indian Department, being as follows:—

West Coast Agency	2,864	
Fraser Agency	4,338	
Kamloops Agency	2,401	
Cowichan Agency	2,048	
Kwawkewlk Agency	1,732	
Okanagan Agency	878	
Williams Lake Agency	1,803	
Kootenay Agency	696	
North-West Coast Agency	4,001	
Babine and Upper Skeena Agency	2,645	
		23,406
Helelsuck	2,274	
Taheli	1,000	
Bands not visited	8,522	
		11,796
Total		35,202

It further appears, from a report which the British Columbia Government have received from Mr. R. E. Gosnell, who was one of the census enumerators upon the occasion of the taking of the last decennial census, that the work of the enumerators did not cover the entire Province, but omitted the region of the Yukon River and the country at the north of the Province, and did not in any way take into account the population in those portions of the Province It is to be observed that in these omitted portions of the Province there are large bands of Indians, besides some white people. It further appears that the number of Indians returned by the census enumerators, and included in the gross population of 98,173, viz.: 23,263, is made up from actual count in parts of the Province other than the omitted places. It is clear, therefore, that a large portion of the population of British Columbia has not been included in the census returns of 98,173; and assuming the accuracy of the census return (for the same year as the decennial census) of Indians for British Columbia issued by the Department of Indian Affairs, it is also clear that the Indian population alone, which has thus been omitted, numbers 11,939.

The Committee of Council, in view of section 3 of the terms under which British Columbia became a Province of Canada, and which stipulates that until the population amounts to 400,000, British Columbia shall receive from Canada an annual grant of an amount equal to eighty cents (80c.) per head of the population, as shown by each decennial census, remark that, according to the spirit and meaning of this provision, the census should be completely and accurately taken, and that such cannot be said to have been done, so long as an omission such as is shewn to exist in this case remains uncorrected.

Until the number of Indians and Whites can be ascertained in the portions of the Province which has not been covered by the decennial census enumerators, the Committee would firmly urge upon the Dominion Government that an adherence to the letter and spirit of the Terms of Union requires that, for the purpose of the yearly per capita grant, the omitted population of 11,939 Indians, as shown by the census of the Indian Department, should be added to the population, thus making the total number upon which the grant is to be based 110,112.

The Committee advise that a copy of this Minute, if approved, and of the report of Mr. Gosnell, to which reference is made herein, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

Certified,

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

Deputy Clerk, Executive Council.

VICTORIA, April 21st, 1893.

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request of this a.m. I herewith submit what appears to me to throw some light on the mystery of the census figures. The confusion arises undoubtedly from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa mixing up two things which are entirely distinct, viz., the returns of the Indian Department and those of the Dominion census of 1891.

The Dominion census returns give the population of B. C. as 98,173, the result of *actual* enumeration. In the census schedules there was no column for Indians as distinguished from the rest of the population. Nationality, with the exception of French Canadians, is decided by place of birth solely. Indians, of course, are put down as born in B.C., and so far as the census returns are concerned this would form the only clue to ascertaining their number, but as a great many white people have been born in the Province as well, the two cannot be separated.

I may here state that the Dominion census returns are in no way associated with the Indian Department returns, being compiled entirely independently, and neither in any way forming the basis of the other.

In taking the census the Indian Department was not consulted, nor was any reference made to returns published. It was on the basis of actual count of people found on the spot.

The Indian Department returns, which I understand are based on estimates furnished by the various agencies, give the Indian population as 35,202. This may be correct without necessarily affecting the accuracy of the Dominion census. (You will observe by the returns of the Indian Department , Indians given as not under agents are estimated at 11,796). In conversation with Mr. Vowell, Indian Commissioner, he states that these Indians belong to

the Yukon country, where the census enumerators of B. C. do not reach, and hence instead of being included in the 98,173, total population, should be added to it, making the total 109,969, upon which, if the Indian Department census be correct, the Dominion subsidy should be based.

I observe a despatch in the "World," from Ottawa, that Mr. Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, states that the 11,796 Indians referred to is included in the 98,173, but this is clearly an inference based on the supposition that the census enumerators covered the whole area of B. C., which is not the case. In Cariboo the enumerators did not go farther than Chilcotin country, and in New Westminster District, the country covered, the population of which makes up the total of 10,177 classed in the census as "Coast," was from the head of Howe Sound, on the mainland side (and the islands belonging thereto), to Alaska, including Queen Charlotte Islands. Along the Naas and Skeena Rivers and in the Omineca mining country and on the Stickeen River (400 population). Further the enumerators did not go or could not go, without fitting out an expedition at great cost and taking a very long time. The Indians included in this 10,177, in which there are a number of white people, are all or nearly all under agents, and therefore clearly could not contain the 11,796 that are classed as not under agents, and are not any part of them.

More than that, as the Indians are not and cannot be distinguished from the white population in the Dominion census returns, the division of whites and Indians made by Mr. Lowe as, respectively, on the Mainland and Island must also clearly be based on a similar assumption. That is to say, to find out the white population on the Mainland and Island, respectively, he has accepted the 35,202 Indians given in the Indian Department returns as a correct statement and as included in the 98,173, total population, and has subtracted the total Indian population, as given in the Indian Department returns as belonging to the Mainland, from the total population of the same as given in the Dominion census returns, in order to arrive at the white population of the Mainland; and similarly with the Island of Vancouver to find its white population; but, as I have pointed out, the 35,202 Indians include 11,796 not counted in the 98,173 total population; and, furthermore, two sets of figures are used which are arrived at in a totally different way.

The only possible way to arrive at the Indian population from the Dominion census would be to go over the census schedules and pick out the Indians as enumerated. This could be done by the Commissioners, the nationality or race being indicated pretty clearly in several ways: First by the name, and secondly by the birthplace of individual and of father and mother. An almost absolutely correct statement could be arrived at in this way by those acquainted with the schedules, or, in fact, by the Department. The Chinese could be separated in the same way. If the Department did not object, and there would be no particular reason for objection as the Commissioners are sworn to secrecy, the schedules could be returned to them and examined either sitting together or separately.

However you will see, if my contention be correct, that it makes a very material and important difference as to the distribution of the Indians, and it cannot be settled otherwise than by an examination of the schedules in the way I have indicated, that is, if the Dominion census is to be taken as the basis of count. If the census of both the Dominion for federal purposes and of the Indian Department be accepted as correct, and Mr. Lowe's method be adopted to ascertain approximately the number of whites on the Mainland and Island, respectively, then it is clear that 109,969 should be taken as the total population, and not 98,173.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) R. E. GOSNELL.

To Hon. Theodore Davie,
Attorney-General, Victoria.

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VICTORIA, B. C.:
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