

The Census on the Yellow Peril

THE report of the Census Bureau on the number of Japanese residents in the United States shows that the number has been much exaggerated by those panic-stricken persons who affect to dread the rise of a new Japan in America. As a matter of fact the Japanese population of the three states on the Pacific coast increased more slowly from 1910 to 1920 than it did in the previous decade. There are 70,196 Japanese in California, which has a total population of 3,426,861; in other words about one Californian out of every fifty is a Japanese. In Washington there are 17,114 Japanese, or 1.3 per cent of the total population. In Oregon there are only 4,022, or about one in two hundred of the population. Altho some Californians have criticized the census figures as too small, Director Rogers points out that a "careful, actual enumeration of each individual" as carried out by the Census Bureau is more to be trusted than the estimates of private persons.

Only in Hawaii is there anything remotely resembling the "Nipponification" of American territory. But this is not altogether the result of recent immigration as there were many Japanese already in the Hawaiian Islands when they first passed under our flag. Of a total population of 255,512 the Japanese number 109,269 by the 1920 census. There are more Japanese in the narrow confines of these islands than in all three of the Pacific coast states taken together. In Hawaii and the Pacific states alike much of the increase of the last decade is of Japanese women. More than a third of the Japanese in the Pacific states and over two-fifths in Hawaii are females. Twenty years ago the Japanese population in America was almost wholly male.