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Ages Of Canadians

INFORMATION on the age composition of Canada's population is not only necessary to governments for various purposes but is also useful to private enterprise in many ways. Reflecting the need for such information is the fact that a question of age has been asked in each census of Canada since 1871. It will be asked again in the 1951 census, to be taken in June this year.

In contrast with most other attributes of the population, age is an ever-changing characteristic. Marriage and parenthood are associated with certain ages; death is more frequent during the very early and the late years of life; school attendance is confined to the younger ages; employment opportunities are highest for the ages 20 to 45; military service is generally confined to males from 18 to 45, with a breakdown within those limits in accordance with the physical demands of the type of service; retirement from the stress and strain of active employment is usual between 65 and 70.

At the time of the last census in 1941 the average age of the Canadian population was 30.4 years. This figure compares with 28.6 ten years earlier, 27.4 for 1921, 26.9 for 1911, 27.1 for 1901, 25.8 for 1891, and 24.7 for 1881. Thus, except in 1911, when the census reflected the effect of the heavy immigration in the immediately preceding years, the decennial censuses have recorded an unbroken upward trend in the average age of the population. In the first four decades of this country there was a rise of 3.3 years.

The answers to the questions on age in the 1951 census will show whether the trends of the past decades have continued and the extent to which the increased birth rates of recent years have altered the country's age composition. From the resulting figures, all levels of government will be in a better position to determine the requirements for such things as infant welfare, provision for the aged, and primary and secondary schools. Likewise, manufacturers and others engaged in business will have a new set of up-to-date facts on the age distribution of the population in all parts of Canada to guide them in shaping business plans and programs for which such knowledge is often essential.

Freedom In Reverse

ONE MIGHT suppose that a treaty which proposed to commit a large number of governments of the world to support of the general principles of freedom of information and freedom of the press would naturally be a desirable convention, comments Christian Science Monitor.

But the treaty draft on this subject, which is being distributed to members of the United Nations for comment after long sessions by a 15-nation committee, would have the ironic effect of constricting seriously the very liberties which it was intended to enlarge and guarantee.

This comes about through Article 2 of the proposed draft, which enumerates various limitations that governments would be permitted to place on distribution of news and comment. Regulation would be allowed, of course, to punish libel or fraud and to protect information affecting national security.

But there are further proposals to add bans on "false and distorted reports likely to undermine friendly relations" and statements which would "injure the feelings of nationals of a state."

Who is to determine, for example, whether an estimate of the number of prisoners in Soviet slave labor camps is "false and distorted" or whether a description of General Franco's Falange Party is likely to injure Spanish feelings? Such provisions, however well intended, could be used to stifle honest reporting.

An international treaty in behalf of freedom of information should broaden rather than narrow that freedom.

Scripture Passage for Today

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."—1 Cor. 9:14
"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."—1 Cor. 11:1.

HEAVY TRAFFIC
INGERSOLL, Ont. (P)—Traffic through this town increased considerably in recent days when hundreds of new motor-

cars passed through from Windsor factories to Toronto. At times there were as many as 50 new vehicles in a string, with both men and women driving.

VICTORIA REPORT

by J. K. Nesbitt

Labor Tells the Government—Nursing Service Costs—Government House Glitters

VICTORIA.—The powerful B. C. Federation of Labor told the government the other day that British Columbia's Labor Act is not a good act and should be repealed and that the operations of the Labor Relations Board should be fully investigated.

The Federation sent a delegation to see the cabinet and a brief read to the ministers said this: "It is not so many years ago that British Columbia led the way in improving labor conditions and recognizing the rights of organized labor. Unfortunately, that is not so today. At the national convention of the Canadian Congress of Labor in Winnipeg, delegates from all sections of Canada heard the B. C. Labor Relations Board singled out for condemnation by our national president, A. R. Mosher."

The labor delegation also caused a stir in legislative circles when it asked the government to take over the B. C. Telephone Company and operate it as a public utility. There have been many requests that the government expropriate the B. C. Electric—but this is the first time in this reviewer's memory that any influential body has requested the government to take the telephone company. This request, of course, will be completely ignored by the government.

NURSES' PAY.—The Registered Nurses' Association is contemplating raising nurses' wages to \$10 for an eight-hour day. At present the rate is \$8 a day. At \$10 a day—today—a trained nurse is not being overpaid. On a five-day week she makes only \$200 a month—which surely is not a great deal for a woman who has given three years of her life to training, who has probably taken a post-graduate course and whose work is so vitally important to humanity. It is not a big salary at all—and that is why it is so difficult to persuade many young women today to enter our training schools. They can make far more money as stenographers.

Yes—a trained nurse is certainly worth \$10 a day—but if you should need a special nurse right round the clock—that's \$30 every 24 hours—enough to break the average person very rapidly.

This reviewer would think the time is surely coming when trained nurses must become government employees to some extent—like teachers are. Some system will have to be worked out whereby more trained nurses are stationed in hospitals—so that desperately sick people will have more personalized nursing care. Of course, human nature being what it is, everybody will want a trained nurse. Such a system would cause a lot of trouble—but that \$30 every 24 hours for trained nurses can break a bankroll faster than a dice game.

It's a serious matter—and something will have to be done about it sooner or later.

BRILLIANT AFFAIR.—Government House has seldom been so brilliant as it is the day of the opening of the House today. The State Dinner and State Ball will be as magnificent as any social event in Ottawa or Washington, D.C.

The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Clarence Wallace have engaged 49 extra servants for the evening—in addition to the regular household staff of 16 people. There will be 45 guests to dinner—and 15 maids waited on them, as well as the butler and assistant butler who serve wines, liquors, coffee and cigars. The guests will sit in high-backed chairs, each with the coat-of-arms of British Columbia worked into the richly colored tapestry. Six massive silver bowls of spring flowers and six heavy candelabra centre the long table in the state dining room and the dinner will be served on Crown Derby in red, blue and gold.

The dinner will last from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. and the State Ball starts at 10 p.m. and "God Save the King" will be played at 2 a.m.



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Assessment Cut in Half

Decision to cut in half assessment of administration building—that to be turned into an apartment hotel by a local syndicate—was handed down last night by a final sitting of the city court of revision.

Instead of the original assessment of \$80,000 on improvements, the building was re-assessed at \$40,000.

Ald. T. D. Black moved the assessment role be so altered.

ray..

Reflects and Reminisces

THIS TIME, HE MARKETS

When a Sussex Englishman went to collect his mail, he found in the one-man letter slot, the weekly mail ration for two. But there was no sense in beefing about it.

WAS BACK DOOR EVER USED?

A North Bay business man, long active in Canadian affairs, is under arrest for having slain his wife with a hammer. He is 69. Two years ago he retired. He does not deny the crime. He lived in the city's most exclusive district. His record was one of kindness and consideration. Neighbors all say his wife's whole life centred about her home—its neatness and perfection; how she often made her husband remove his shoes, before entering the house. Wonder if it was also necessary to polish them?

The Dean of Canterbury thought so much of Stalin's remarks in last week's interview that he offered congratulations. He's had considerable practice.

IT COMETH!

Less than a month to the "Seventeenth of Ireland" for in Canada, even allowing for frost here and there, St. Patrick's Day is hailed as the approach of spring. An anniversary parade in Montreal is remembered as an icy feeling affair, along with plenty of silk hats and the sort of music to be expected. The day we left Saskatoon for the coast was another seventeenth and weather strongly resembled January. The prairie was white, cold and desolate. But how different a day or so later at North Bend. Still a longish way to travel before seeing the Pacific yet here you sensed spring was on the way. Every turn of the westward rolling wheels said so.

A woman has made formal application for the post of official

Report from Parliament

By Edward J. Applewhite M.P.

SEES IMPOSSIBLE—I have just had a unforgettable experience and I have seen the impossible accomplished. A group of senators and members of all parties was taken to Cartierville, on the outskirts of Montreal, to see the airplane factory of Canadair Limited and to watch a demonstration of the F86E—

the latest thing in jet fighters. The trip was arranged by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, with the co-operation of the RCAF and the officials of Canadair. We left Ottawa at 9:30 in the morning and were back in time for the afternoon sitting of the House. The plant, said to be the most efficient air plane production plant in the world, was an eye-opener.

Its size, complexity and efficiency made a lasting impression on us all but the spectacular and thrilling feature—particularly to one who is not familiar with engineering and mechanics—was the demonstration by the completed F86E. It was piloted by Flt. Lieut. Teddy Evans of the RCAF who, I am told, came back off a furlough in order to do this demonstration for us. On his first run he zoomed over us at about 300 feet at 670 miles per hour. Have you ever seen anything go by you at 670 miles an hour? If you have you will realize that the only way I can describe it is to say, it's impossible—but I saw it. He then did a series of quick rolls, very quick indeed, and then made a run at the end of which he shot straight up—straight up, I said, some 9 to 12 thousand feet. Sure, it's impossible. I knew it was, as I watched him doing it. As we were going over to Cartierville from Ottawa we had an "escort" of vampire jet fighters. They shot past the Dakotas of the Air Transport Command as though we were standing still. At Cartierville, three of these Vampires flew over us, and along came the F86E over them, and he passed THEM as though they were standing still. On his last swing over us, the F86E came over at about 130 miles an hour. That, I believe, is one of the

most difficult things of all for a plane, the cruising speed of which is about 450 and efficient maximum about 670. The whole demonstration was a triumph for Canadian production-engineering—and for Canadian flying. Golly, if I had one of those I could come home to Prince Rupert in time for tea every Saturday.

HOUSING.—To get down from 670 mph to the somewhat slower speed of the House of Commons—Gordon Graydon has urged upon the government reconsideration of the changes in the loan provisions in the National Housing Act. Replying, the Prime Minister said that as he understood the statement of the Minister of Resources and Development, it was a promise to keep the matter of housing constantly under review, on the basis that, next to construction, required for defence purposes, housing was to have the highest priority. I think Mr. Graydon expressed the general feeling.

(Continued on page 6)

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hangman in New Zealand. If she lands it, there will be no question whatever about the man having the last word.

BETTER THAN HERRING
An Irish sweep does not always bring good fortune. A few Japanese fishermen were scouting around, off Hokkaido Island, last week and not getting anywhere. Finally they sighted sixteen whales, all dead. The creatures had bumped into icebergs and the experience was severe enough to kill them. The Japanese bag-

SEEING THE WHALE
How many of us have seen about Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,900 feet in height. Just now mountaineers are playing it up in a screen thriller. Not in the Rockies equal to for height. A lot easier to travel far—but the its best to be a sub-

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