

STATE VISIT TO CARIBBEAN

The Governor General and Mrs. Michener are visiting Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago at the invitation of the Governments of these four Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean.

The journey began on February 11 and after a few days in each country, the viceregal couple will return to Ottawa on March 3.

CANADA'S YOUNG POPULATION

Almost half Canada's population is under 25 years of age, according to a bulletin dated January 17 from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which shows the estimated population of Canada and the provinces by sex and five-year age-groups at June 1, 1968. The population aged 0 to 4 was estimated at 2,030,000, or 9.8 per cent of the total population of 20,744,000. In 1961, the percentage in this age-group was 12.4 per cent, or 2,256,400. The decrease in relative importance of this age-group reflects the continued fall in the Canadian birth-rate since 1960. Only the 1941 census following the depression years, showed a lower percentage of children aged 0 to 4 (9.1 per cent). The age-group 5 to 9, with an estimated 2,330,700 (11.2 per cent) was the largest. The percentage of the population 10 to 14 years was 10.6 (2,204,800); the age-group 15 to 19, 9.5 per cent, (1,968,000); and the 20 to 24 group, 8 per cent (1,658,700), bringing the population under 25 to 49.1 per cent, or 10,192,200 persons.

WORKING GROUP

In the working ages from 15 to 64, 60.7 per cent was estimated, with the dependant population 0 to 14 comprising 31.6 per cent and the retirement ages estimated at 7.7 per cent. In 1966, the census showed 59.4 per cent in the working years, with 33.0 per cent under 15 years and 7.7 per cent in the retirement ages 65 and over.

Population in the working age-group in relation to the proportion in the dependant ages (0 to 14) and the retirement ages (65 and over), varies among the provinces. Quebec had the highest percentage in the working age-group (61 per cent) and Newfoundland had the lowest (55 per cent). In the dependant population, Newfoundland had the highest proportion at 39 per cent, while Ontario and Manitoba at 31 per cent had the lowest. Twelve per cent of the population of British Columbia was in the retirement ages 65 and over, while only 6 per cent of Quebec's and Newfoundland's population had reached these ages.

PROPORTION OF MALES TO FEMALES

In all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, males outnumber females. The excess ranges from 1,042 males for every 1,000 females in Newfoundland to 1,006 males for 1,000 females in Manitoba. Ontario shows 998 males and Quebec 995 males for 1,000 females. However, this varies greatly by age-group

as the population becomes older. Owing to a constant excess of male births over female, the population at ages 0 to 4 show the highest masculinity rates; for Canada it is 1,053 males for 1,000 females. However, the more favourable death rate for women reduces the excess of males over females through successive age-groups to near equality at age 40 to 44 then to an increasing excess of females until at 90 and over there are only 592 males for every 1,000 females.

IJC REPORT ON LAKE LEVELS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, recently released the interim report of the International Joint Commission on Regulation of Great Lakes Levels, which describes the nature, scope and progress of the Commission's investigation into the possibility of further regulation of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters for the purpose of reducing the extreme variations in level that have been experienced. The report is also concerned with the various elements governing lake levels, the interests affected by variations of level and the problems involved in controlling outflows.

The Governments of Canada and the United States requested this study in October 1964, during a period when extensive damage was being suffered as a result of a critically low volume of water. The outflows of Lakes Superior and Ontario have been regulated for many years under criteria established by the Commission and approved by the Canadian and U.S. Governments. The Commission is reviewing these criteria and is also studying the desirability of regulating the outflows of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

In May 1965, initial public hearings were held in Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Windsor and Chicago. Earlier, in December 1964, the Commission appointed an International Great Lakes Levels Board composed of federal officials to carry out the necessary technical surveys and investigations. The interim report states that the Board, with the co-operation of provincial and state agencies, has completed the compilation of basic data and is testing preliminary regulation plans for their effects on the various interests concerned - primarily shore property, navigation and hydroelectric power. The second phase of the Board's programme, to be completed by the end of 1970, is designed to develop improved plans and establish regulation criteria.

The Board's final report to the Commission will be made available as a basis for further public hearings, which will give all those interested an opportunity to comment and provide the Commission with additional information. After the hearings the Commission will report to the Governments of Canada and the United States.