

different from what we expect. Life would be very dull if it were otherwise.

In the field of economics and finance, we can see tremendous changes if we look back over past decades, and all the indications are that this will continue for many years to come. In building a picture of the growth of the Canadian economy, the first factor to consider is the size of the population. The population of the world is said to have doubled between the birth of Christ and the year 1750 A.D. It took only 140 years to double again, and only 70 years to double the next time, if we may project present trends to 1960. The population of Canada is rising at a faster rate than that. Even with an annual rate of increase somewhat lower than that of the last 10 years, it is not difficult to foresee a rise of 50 per cent over the next 20 years. The increase will apparently be concentrated very largely in urban areas, if the proportion of the population living on farms continues the decline that has been apparent here for several decades, and even longer in the United States. Changes in the age distribution of the population and, within each age group, of the proportion entering the labour force will apparently balance off, so that the total Canadian labour force may also be projected as about 50 per cent greater in 1975 than in 1955.

The second major factor in economic growth is the average productivity of the economy per man employed. Over the past quarter century in Canada this seems to have risen at about 2 per cent per annum on the average, although individual years have shown marked departures from this, and the rate of increase of productivity has varied widely from one industry or occupation to another. From 1947 to 1953 the average rate of increase was 2.7 per cent per man per year. The recent rapid progress in mechanization in agriculture, and the increase in overall productivity resulting from the shift in the proportions of the labour force engaged in agriculture compared with occupations with a higher product value per unit of labour input, have perhaps made recent figures of increases in productivity greater than can be expected in future. But advances in technology will continue, and in Canada we should also realize each year more of the economies of mass production for a growing domestic market. A straight projection of future increases in productivity per man employed at the rate of two per cent per annum would produce a gross national product by 1975, at 1955 prices, of \$55 billion, or more than double the amount indicated for 1955.

Such a projection contains an implicit assumption that hours of work will continue to decline at no more than the rate evident in recent years, about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per year. Clearly, there might be a major change in thinking on this subject. Already one hears talk of the possibility of a 30-hour week; perhaps a more attractive target would be a 1500-hour year, or something intermediate between that and the present 2000-hour year in many industries, with leisure time taken more in the way of longer vacations than shorter hours of work during the work-week. In any case, the benefits of increased productivity could, if desired, be taken partly in the form of more leisure rather than more annual pay. Gross national product in material terms would to that extent fall short of the potential indicated.