

POPULATION 15,236,000: Canada's population increased by 201,000 in the first six months this year, 29,000 or 17% more than in the first half of 1953, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The Bureau estimated the July 1 population at 15,236,000, which compares with 15,035,000 at the start of 1954. Last year's July 1 estimate of 14,821,000 compared with 14,649,000 at the beginning of 1953.

The gain in the year ended July 1 was 415,000 or 2.8%, which compares with an increase of 354,000 or 2.4% in the 12 months ended July 1 last year. In the first six months of 1954 the population increased at an annual rate of 2.7% as compared with an annual rate of increase of 2.3% in the first half of 1953. The July 1 population represented a gain of 41,000 over the June 1 estimate of 25,195,000.

The Bureau's population estimates for intercensal years are obtained by adding births and immigrants to the census total (14,009,000 at the start of June 1951) and deducting deaths and an estimate of emigration. Since the war the birth rate has been rising and the death rate falling, while the step-up in immigration has outweighed an increase in emigration.

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ARMS FOR PORTUGAL: The Canadian Army will ship a quantity of field artillery equipment next week to the Portuguese Army under terms of the mutual aid programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The supplies will be shipped from Montreal.

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Canadian concerns processed more tea but less coffee in the second quarter of 1954 than in April-June last year. Production of roasted coffee was cut by 4,656,000 pounds or more than one-fourth to 13,825,000 pounds, while output of blended and packed tea was boosted by 1,135,000 pounds or over 10% to 12,090,000 pounds.

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Pipe lines in Canada transported a record 83,480,000 barrels of oil in the first 6 months this year, some 15,025,000 or 22% more than in the first half of 1953.

NORTHWEST PASSAGE: HMCS Labrador, the Royal Canadian Navy's new Arctic patrol ship, is well on her way to becoming the first naval vessel in history to navigate the famed Northwest Passage, it was revealed on September 3 in an announcement by Naval Headquarters.

Emphasizing Canada's growing interest in the North, the 6,500-ton ship entered far northern waters via the Atlantic Ocean late in July, to assist in re-supplying Canadian Government outposts and to conduct important survey work. She has now made a rendezvous near the western entrance of the Northwest Passage with two United States icebreakers which entered the area from the Pacific. The Labrador plans to accompany the U.S. vessels, the Burton Island and the Northwind, when they return to the Pacific this month.

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PRICE INDEX UP: The consumer price index advanced 0.7% from 116.2 to 117.0 between July 2 and August 2. This increase was almost entirely attributable to a rise of 2.1% in the food index from 112.1 to 114.4, most of which was seasonal in its nature.

The shelter index increased 0.3% from 126.6 to 127.0 as a result of advances in rents and residential building costs.

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SCHOOL FOR KOREANS: Canadian troops in Korea have hired a Korean construction firm to build a five room school for the children of Chin-mokchong, the Korean village the Canadians have adopted and pledged themselves to rebuild. The village, situated in the Canadian sector, was completely destroyed in the early days of the Korean fighting.

The building will be financed from a \$3,000 fund contributed by officers and men of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

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Value of cheques cashed in clearing centres in July totalled \$12,541,611,000, slightly below last year's corresponding total of \$12,709,887,000. The cumulative total for the January-July period was up 5.6% to \$87,140,131,000 from \$82,545,763,000 in the same period for 1953.

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