

into the water and speared from kayaks. Sometimes two converging rows were used, and archers hid behind stone blinds at the apex.

The lives of the people depended much on this style of hunting. In the elaborate preparation and careful manoeuvres, the greatest care was taken to see that no spirit was offended or taboo broken. The crossing places became holy places and exact rules of conduct were observed. One, for example, was that no woman was allowed to traverse them or to assist in the flaying of the animals. A woman in the eyes of the spirits was unclean as far as game was concerned and would certainly offend the soul of the dead caribou. Also, offerings of certain portions of the caribou were left on the site, within stone enclosures, or

laid within the ruins of old Tunrit houses which frequently were close by the crossing places. The houses had become sacrariums themselves, a commemoration, perhaps, to the Tunrit people.

In a land that has remained little changed through the millenniums that man has lived in it, it is not surprising that there is an air of mystery among its pillars and mounted stones, from the holy crossing places and ancient tent rings (some 4000 years old), from the old houses and other stone structures prolific throughout the land, and from the images of man. They survive as testimony to all that remains of the generations of struggle for life that took place around them.

The Pieceable Kingdom

As the statistics from Census 71 are tabulated and tabled, analyzed and qualified, a huge connect-the-dots statistical portrait of Canada takes shape.

The portrait artist—a large bureau called Statistics Canada—cautions that it is highly preliminary, but it's interesting enough. Here is a sampler of some of the findings—more lines and shadings later.

—The people are gaining on the animals, but not so fast as they were. The rate has been slowing since the mid-fifties. The population at the beginning of 1973 is calculated at roughly 21,975,000. This is an increase of about 7.8 per cent of the 1966 count. The rate of growth from 1961 to 1966 was 9.7 per cent. Between 1956 and 1961 the population grew by 13.4 per cent, and by almost 15 per cent in the early fifties.

—The three fastest growing provinces were British Columbia (16.6 per cent), Alberta (11.3 per cent) and Ontario (10.7 per cent). B.C. grew all over and had 311,000 more people than five years before.

—The two most booming counties in the country were Peel, on the western edge of Metropolitan Toronto, and Central Okanagan, in the B.C. interior. They grew by about 50 per cent. Labrador (part of Newfoundland) grew by 33 per cent because of increased iron mining and the huge new Churchill Falls power project.

—The Maritime Provinces in general and New Brunswick and Prince Edwards Island in particular made very small gains—2.9 per cent for those two. Manitoba lost population in fifteen of its twenty divisions, but made a net gain of 2.6

per cent. Saskatchewan showed a net loss of people.

—People continue to leave farms, small towns and villages for the cities.

—Residents having English as their mother tongue continue to gain in percentages. Those having French or other languages continue to decline. Today it's about 60.2 per cent English, compared to 58.5 per cent in 1961. French was 28.1 per cent in 1961, and is 26.9 per cent now. (Even in Quebec there was a small decrease.) "Other" mother tongues decreased substantially. Later reports will break this down into more than thirty language groups.

—There are still more men than women in Canada, but only 22,427 more. There are more men in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland; slightly more women in Quebec and Ontario.

—Fewer, bigger farms are the rule, again. A few agriculture highlights: for the first time in farm census history there was more prairie land sown to barley than to oats. There are more cattle on feed, fewer milking cows (who are giving more milk—a Canadian average of about thirty-four pounds a day per cow), more pigs on fewer farms, fewer sheep, horses, and goats, more chickens and turkeys on fewer farms, and more ducks and geese squawking in more farm-yards.

Statistics Canada loosed about 100 of these reports in 1972 and another 200 will be released in 1973. Journalists and scholars interested in keeping up in detail may write the Information Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A OT6.