

*The Address—Mr. Givens*

things that seem to make Canada a very different place from the urban environment in which they themselves live. Even many Canadians still think about Canada in some of these terms. It is true, of course, that we do have a vast natural heritage. But most Canadians now live in another and very different Canada, in crowded and congested cities, and most Canadians now work in other and very different industries and occupations, mainly in the service industries.

This transformation of Canada from a predominantly rural into a highly urbanized country has taken place within the twentieth century, within the living memory of many Canadians. Canada is now, in fact, one of the most highly urbanized countries in the world. Over the past two decades urban population has grown about half again as fast as that of the United States and at around twice the rate of growth experienced in many of the industrial countries of western Europe. A century ago only about one out of every five Canadians lived in a town or city. It was only about four decades ago that our urban population became larger than our rural population. Today almost three-quarters of our population is urban; and our rural population has actually declined over the past 10 or 15 years. By the end of this century it is estimated that nine out of every ten Canadians will live in an urban area.

Moreover, this growth of urban population has been particularly concentrated in the larger urban centres. Almost half of Canada's population today lives in centres of 100,000 population or more. Over recent years the population growth in these centres has been of the order of 350,000 per year. In other words, each year we have been adding the equivalent of a city of about the size of Calgary or two cities the size of metropolitan Victoria to the over-all population of our larger cities. Each year we have been adding a good deal more than a city the size of Halifax or of London, Ontario.

A large part of the growth of cities is, of course, accounted for by natural population increase; that is, the excess of births over deaths. For the smaller cities outside of larger urban agglomerations this, in fact, constitutes the main source of growth. For example, in the 1950's this was practically the only source of growth of cities of less than 30,000 population in Canada. But the growth of the large urban centres reflects net migration as well as natural population growth; migration from other countries as well as migration from rural areas, from villages and towns and even

from other smaller cities. From 1951 to 1961 about half the growth of metropolitan areas with a population of over 100,000 was due to net inflows of people. The comparable figure for metropolitan Toronto in this period was 60 per cent.

In its Fourth Annual Review the Economic Council of Canada drew special attention to the particularly rapid growth of Canada's three largest urban centres, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. More than one out of every four Canadians lived in these three cities in the mid-1960's and the Council estimated that the relative growth in these centres would continue, so that by 1980 about one out of every three Canadians would be living in these three huge metropolitan areas.

● (9:30 p.m.)

As we enter the 1970s over 5 million people will be living in the metropolitan areas of Toronto and Montreal, that is, about one out of every four Canadians in these two centres alone. It is possible that by the year 2000, when Canada's population may have reached beyond the 35 million mark, nearly one-third of the country's total population could well be found in these two metropolitan areas. In other words, their combined populations could more than double over the next 30 years.

The dramatic scale of Canada's present degree of concentration of population in large urban agglomerations can also be illustrated by the size of metropolitan populations in relation to provincial populations. Today we have 17 metropolitan areas in Canada with populations that are greater than that of Prince Edward Island. Over the past five years Toronto and Montreal have each added about three times the population of Prince Edward Island. Montreal and Toronto are each larger than the four Atlantic provinces put together, and of the ten provinces only Ontario and Quebec have populations exceeding those of Montreal and Toronto.

In spite of the impressive growth of Canada's urban population, especially over the past few decades, there have been strikingly stable features of our cities in the longer run. Perhaps the most outstanding of these is that the broad form of any given city is surprisingly persistent. Bay and King Streets in Toronto, Ste. Catherine in Montreal, Portage and Main in Winnipeg, and Hastings in Vancouver have altered skylines. The nature of the business performed along such streets has changed in many ways, but they are still at