

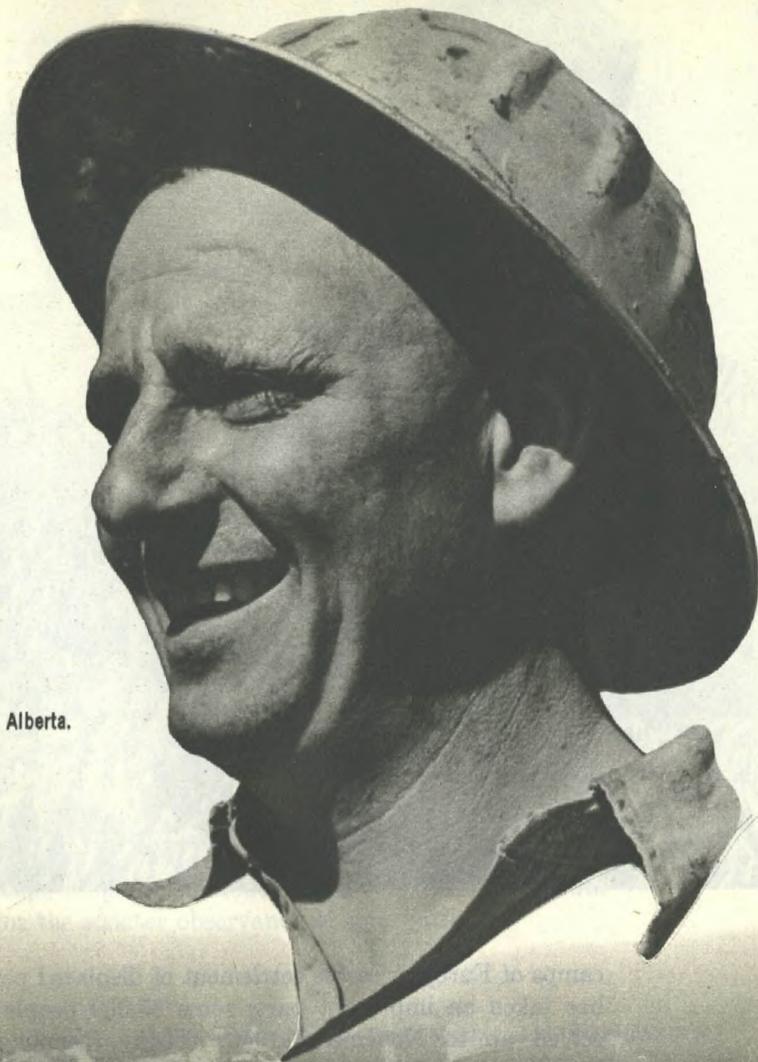
THE PEOPLE

Canada's population of more than thirteen and one half millions can be roughly divided into three main groups, all of European origin. English and French, the two official languages of Canada, indicate the largest of these. The third is a composite group of other European peoples.

Persons of British stock account for slightly less than one-half of the total population. Included in this group are the descendants of immigrants from the British Isles, of the United Empire Loyalists who migrated to Canada after the American Revolution, and more recent settlers from the United States and the United Kingdom. Canadians of British origin are spread out across the country but are somewhat more concentrated in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario, and British Columbia.

Over thirty per cent of the population are Canadians of French stock. They have almost all sprung from the French colonists who remained in Canada when it came under British rule in 1763. Although over a million of them now live in other parts of Canada, most of them are in the province of Quebec. Here they have retained a distinct way of life which is guaranteed and respected by the nature of the Canadian federation. The French element of the Canadian people continues to maintain a high degree of homogeneity and cohesion.

The third segment of the population came to Canada largely with the wave of settlement which swept over the West during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Immigration declined in the period between the wars, but has increased sharply since 1945. Between September 1945 and July 1949, 331,358 immigrants came to Canada. Several special groups have been admitted such as 4,500 Polish ex-servicemen and 2,000 Jewish orphans from the



A driller in the Redwater oil fields, Alberta.

