

tional growth-rate has been on a downtrend over the past 20 years. It was 14.8 per cent between the 1951 and 1956 censuses, easing down to 13.4 per cent between 1956 and 1961 and dropping to 9.7 per cent between 1961 and 1966.

With the 1971 census results as a benchmark, and taking into account births, deaths, immigration and estimated emigration since the census, the population of Canada at noon on April 21, was estimated at 21,815,978.

AGE GROUPS

The population increased in all age groups over nine years of age, but decreased in the nine-and-under group from the 1966 census to that of 1971.

On June 1, 1971, there were 4,070,160 children under ten years old, comprising 18.9 per cent of the total population. Five years earlier there were 4,498,244 accounting for 22.5 per cent.

Canadian residents of working age (15 to 64) increased to 13,443,008, or 62.3 per cent of the total population from 11,883,575, or 59.4 per cent, while those over 65 increased to 1,744,405, or 8.1 per cent, from 1,539,548, or 7.7 per cent.

The combination of population expansion and legislation reducing voting age to 18 from 21 produced an increase of 23.2 per cent in the number of Canadian residents of voting age. The total on June 1, 1971 was 13,872,498, or 64.3 per cent of the whole population.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN

The language first learned and still understood by 60.2 per cent of Canadian residents counted in the 1971 census was English - compared to 58.5 per cent in the 1961 census. The population with French as its mother tongue declined to 26.9 per cent from 28.1 per cent and that claiming other mother tongues also declined, to 13.0 per cent from 13.5 per cent.

Alberta had the largest gain in English (to 77.6 per cent from 72.2 per cent); Nova Scotia had the smallest (to 93.0 per cent from 92.3 per cent). Ontario at 77.5 per cent was unchanged, and in Quebec there was a decrease to 13.1 per cent from 13.3 per cent.

The French percentage declined in all provinces

except British Columbia, which had a slight rise to 1.7 per cent from 1.6 per cent, and Newfoundland which remained unchanged at 0.7 per cent. The declines were slight in Quebec (to 80.7 per cent from 81.2 per cent) and in New Brunswick (to 34.0 per cent from 35.2 per cent).

There was a considerable decrease between 1961 and 1971 in "other" mother tongue percentages in the Prairies. Manitoba showed a decline to 26.8 per cent from 30.0 per cent, Saskatchewan to 22.5 per cent from 27.1 per cent, and Alberta to 19.5 per cent from 24.6 per cent.

FACTORY FENCE MERCURY CONTROL

New regulations designed to reduce water pollution in Canada were announced recently by Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment. The legislation will control the discharge of mercury from chlor-alkali plants entering waters frequented by fish.

Based on the best available pollution-abatement technology, the rules were developed after consultation with provincial governments and industry; they will affect 14 Canadian plants using mercury cells in the production of chlorine.

The regulations, which are issued under the Fisheries Act, will reduce the emissions of mercury in the liquid effluents by 98 per cent.

Mr. Davis said that by controlling the amount of mercury discharged, the regulations would be in keeping with the federal philosophy of checking pollution "at the factory fence".

"By creating standards that are national in scope we eliminate pollution havens," he said.

Because the new rules measure the pollutant in pounds and not in degrees of concentration as in the past, no plant will be able to comply simply by diluting its effluent with water. The regulations call for daily record-keeping and regular reporting by companies of their consumption of mercury.

"These regulations are only a beginning and will be revised and tightened up as experience and new technology dictates," said Mr. Davis.