

### NEW ESTATE TAX ACT

The Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. J.M. Macdonnell, announced on October 7 that the Government is proclaiming the new Estate Tax Act, passed in the 1958 session of Parliament, to come into force on January 1, 1959. He urged that people re-examine existing wills in the light of the new provisions.

This new Act, which will take the place of the existing Dominion Succession Duty Act, enlarges the exemptions and changes the rates of tax with the result that the amount of tax levied on small and medium sized estates will, in most cases, be considerably reduced. The new Act continues the rule that no estate of less than \$50,000 will be subject to tax but in addition it provides that where estates are valued at more than \$50,000, certain specific deductions will be allowed. The most important of these is where the deceased leaves a widow. In such cases the estate will receive a deduction of \$60,000 and this will be increased by \$10,000 for each dependent child surviving the deceased. For example, after January 1, 1959, there will be no federal estate tax on the estate of a man who dies leaving a widow and two dependent children unless his estate exceeds \$80,000.

Mr. Macdonnell emphasized that in the light of these new provisions it is highly desirable for people who have made wills to re-examine the terms. He felt sure that people would wish to be certain that the intent of their wills would continue to be fulfilled.

Mr. Macdonnell pointed out that the way a will is drawn up will determine how the burden of the estate tax will be distributed among the beneficiaries. Under the existing Succession Duty Act the liability for duty falls on the beneficiary, but under the new Estate Tax Act the tax is computed on the whole estate

before distribution, and where there are bequests of specific amounts the full tax will be left to fall on the residue of the estate unless the testator directs otherwise. Many testators have provided in their wills for the succession duty that would otherwise fall on each beneficiary to be paid from the mass of the estate as a general charge, like a debt. Such wills will not require any change on this point. However, if a testator has not made such a provision, and if he wishes to have the tax under the new Act apportioned among his beneficiaries rather than borne entirely by those receiving the residue of his estate, he would have to provide instructions to his executors in his will to apportion the tax in accordance with his wishes.

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### UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MEET

The University of Ottawa played host last week to 100 undergraduates from universities across Canada, at the 22nd annual conference of the National Federation of Canadian University Students.

One of the projects discussed was the possibility of a student exchange programme between Iron Curtain countries and Western universities. The need was stressed for taking a greater interest in student problems in the Asian and African countries.

The NFCUS will continue to refuse to join the Communist dominated International Union of Students, but will follow its practise of sending observers to IUS meetings. The Canadian federation is a member of the 63 nation International Student Conference.

Meetings were addressed by Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Brooke Claxton, Chairman of the Canada Council, and delegates were entertained by the Governor General at Rideau Hall.

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### POPULATION INCREASE

Canada's population increased 267,000 in the first eight months of this year to an estimated 17,154,000 at September 1 from 16,887,000 at the start of the year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' quarterly estimate. This year's January-August increase was considerably smaller than last year's record eight-month increase of 401,000, but close to the 1956 rise of 274,000.

The slowing of the numerical growth in the nation's population so far this year, as compared with last year's record, was chiefly due to a drop in immigration. In the first six months of this year the number of immigrant arrivals was some 68,000 as against 182,000 in

the first half of 1957

Over the 12 months (September 1, 1957 to September 1, 1958), Canada's estimated population growth was 409,000 (2.4 per cent), comparing with 552,000 (3.4 per cent) in the 1956-1957 period, 390,000 (2.5 per cent) in the 1955-56 period, 394,000 (2.6 per cent) in the 1954-55 period, 443,000 (3 per cent) in the 1953-54 period, and 398,000 in the 1952-53 period. The population growth was 1,073,000 from the 1956 Census total of 16,081,000 and 3,145,000 from the 1951 Census count of 14,009,000.

The table following lists quarterly estimates of Canada's population from June 1, 1951 to September 1, 1958 (actual census totals for June 1, 1951 and June 1, 1956):

Year	January 1	March 1	June 1	July 1	September 1	December 1
			(In Thousands)			
1951....			14,009	14,050	14,129	14,242
1952....	14,277	14,336	14,459	14,496	14,568	14,657
1953....	14,682	14,730	14,845	14,886	14,996	15,074
1954....	15,105	15,162	15,287	15,330	15,409	15,507
1955....	15,535	15,587	15,698	15,736	15,803	15,893
1956....	15,919	15,972	16,081	16,118	16,193	16,308
1957....	16,344	16,420	16,589	16,650	16,745	16,860
1958....	16,887	16,948	17,048	17,085	17,154	