

NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN CANADA UP: During the six years from the 1941 Census to June, 1947, the number of families in Canada increased by approximately 20 per cent, according to estimates released by the Bureau of Statistics. On the other hand, there was a decline in the average size of the family.

The estimated number of families in June last year was 3,042,000, which is an increase of 516,701 over the number recorded in the 1941 Census. This gain is shared by all provinces, the increases ranging from 11 per cent for the Prairie Provinces to 47 per cent for British Columbia. For the Maritime Provinces the rise in number is estimated at 15 per cent; Quebec, 25 per cent; and Ontario, 18 per cent.

Ontario had an estimated 1,073,000 families consisting of 3,680,000 persons; the three Prairie Provinces, 591,000 with 2,170,000 persons; British Columbia, 293,000 families with a total of 966,000 persons; and the Maritime Provinces, 273,000 with 1,083,000 persons.

Average size of Canadian families in 1947 was 3.7 persons as compared with 3.9 persons at the 1941 Census, the Bureau estimates showing a decrease in every region. In the Maritime Provinces the average size declined from 4.2 in 1941 to 4.0 persons; in Quebec, from 4.5 to 4.3; Ontario, from 3.6 to 3.4; Prairie Provinces, from 4.0 to 3.7; and British Columbia, from 3.4 to 3.3 persons.

Due largely to the increase in marriages and of first and second births over the period 1941 to 1947, increased numbers and proportions of families in 1947, as compared with 1941, consisted of two, three or four persons, and a resulting decrease was shown in the proportion with five or more persons. Seventy-five per cent of all families were composed in 1947 of two or four persons as compared with 70.8 per cent in 1941.

LARGEST ENGINEERING CLASS: The shortage of graduate engineers experienced by Canadian industry for the past several years will be considerably relieved in 1949, according to an announcement by Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour.

About 3,300 students--more than 68 per cent of them veterans--will earn their engineering degrees in 1949. Nearly twice as large as the 1948 class this will be the largest graduating class in engineering in the history of Canada, Mr. Mitchell pointed out. It is expected that a comparable number will graduate in 1950, with the number decreasing slightly in 1951.

More than 63 per cent of the students will graduate in Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering--approximately 21 per cent in each branch. Of the remaining 37 per cent, 12½ per cent will be Chemical Engineer and the others divided among Metallurgical, Mining, Physics, Ceramics, Aeronautical, Agricultural, and Forest Engineering.

A survey of future employment possibilities for university graduates was conducted by the Department of Labour in 1946. As a result, it was estimated that 9,450 engineers would be required by Canadian employers in the five-year period, 1947 to 1951 inclusive. In two years, since that period began, 2,900 engineering students have graduated and been absorbed by industry.

It was estimated by the universities that more than 12,000 students would graduate in all branches of engineering in the five-year period 1947 to 1951. While this is slightly higher than the estimated requirements, it is expected that emigration and diversion to other fields will reduce the number by approximately 15 per cent.

Officials of the National Employment service, concerned with the question of employment for the class of 1949, report that the question is also receiving the active attention of professional engineering groups. Many of the members of these groups are owners or senior officers of organizations which normally require engineering personnel. Certain employers have already expressed interest in the distribution of next year's graduating class by universities and courses. With this information in their possession, they expect to make an early start on plans for recruiting additional engineering staff next spring.

STORAGE STOCKS OF FRUITS: Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives were higher on August 1, amounting to 42,073,000 pounds compared with 28,874,000 on July 1 and 35,642,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. August 1 holdings of vegetables, frozen and in brine, were 7,622,000 pounds compared with 6,190,000 on July 1 and 4,965,000 a year ago.

Storage stocks of Canadian potatoes were down from 3,596 tons on August 1 last year to 1,843 tons, onions from 517 tons to 269, beets from 104 tons to 85, carrots from 443 tons to 169, celery from 4,513 crates to 3,363, while cabbages increased from 139 tons to 191.

Stocks of imported onions on August 1 were 201 tons as against 177 a year ago, and carrots 239 tons against 47.

FARM PRICE INDEX: The index number of prices received by Canadian farmers for agricultural products, on the base 1935-39=100, registered a new high of 248.6 in June as compared with 238.8 a month earlier and 203.1 a year ago, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Compared with June 1947, the index numbers for all provinces showed substantial increases with higher prices for grains, livestock, dairy products, potatoes and poultry and eggs. Compared with the preceding month, a gain of 9.8 points was due mainly to the increased prices for livestock, potatoes and poultry and eggs.

CANAL TRAFFIC IN 1947: Total freight passing through all Canadian canal systems in 1947 amounted to 21,513,939 tons, an increase of 2,859,020 tons or 15 per cent over 1946, according to the revised figures in the detailed annual report on canal statistics issued by the Bureau of Statistics.

The number of vessels using the canals last year totalled 20,874 compared with 18,993 in 1946, while registered net tonnage rose to 22,409,869 as against 19,427,423 tons. Passengers numbered 76,080 compared with 79,298. In addition to freight and passenger vessels, 31,598 pleasure craft were locked through as against 29,442.

Excluding all freight duplicated by the use of more than one canal system, the net freight tonnage for all Canadian canals was up over 17 per cent, at 18,088,592 tons compared with 15,412,047 tons. Of the total freight passing through all Canadian canals last year, 18,771,000 tons or just over 87 per cent was carried in Canadian bottoms, while 78.5 per cent of that passing through the Welland Ship Canal was transported in Canadian vessels.

STOCKS OF MEAT: Stocks of Canadian meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on August 1 amounted to 89,202,000 pounds compared with 103,177,000 on July 1 and 68,368,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Lard stocks were 3,740,000 pounds compared with 3,969,000 on July 1 and 2,768,000 a year ago.

Meat stocks were generally higher on August 1 than on the same date last year. Pork advanced from 46,489,000 pounds to 62,094,000, beef from 14,547,000 pounds to 18,975,000, veal from 5,803,000 pounds to 6,424,000, and mutton and lamb from 1,529,000 pounds to 1,708,000.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales increased nine per cent in July over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Advances were shown for all sections of the country with Saskatchewan and Alberta showing identical gains of 23 per cent, Maritimes 22 per cent, British Columbia, 15 per cent, Manitoba nine per cent, and Quebec and Ontario three per cent.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended August 7 dropped to 73,341 cars from 75,968 in the preceding week but were 679 cars above the 1947 loadings of 72,662 cars, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The holiday on August 2 undoubtedly affected the loadings, especially in the eastern division where the total declined from 50,843 cars for the preceding week to 48,998.

FOREIGN VEHICLE ENTRIES: The number of foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in July was 12 per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year, the total standing at 407,884 as compared with 362,638, according to the Bureau of Statistics. During the seven months ending July the number of entries was 911,844 as compared with 823,306 in the similar period of 1947, an increase of 10.8 per cent.

Increases were recorded in July in all provinces except Manitoba and British Columbia, the latter province still suffering from the adverse effects of news accounts of flood damage last spring. July totals for all provinces were barely one per cent lower than those of August, 1947, the month in which the greatest volume of highway traffic on record entered Canada.

Vehicle entries on traveller's permits in July were as follows, totals for July last year being in brackets: Ontario, 262,791 (227,395); Quebec, 71,391 (62,248); British Columbia, 34,516 (37,856); New Brunswick, 21,924 (18,600); Alberta, 8,248 (7,875); Manitoba, 5,126 (5,426); Saskatchewan, 2,815 (2,374); Nova Scotia, 699 (635); Yukon Territory, 374 (228).

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on August 5 amounted to 36,291,400 bushels as compared with 34,799,400 on July 29 and 53,670,800 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended August 5 totalled 1,046,800 bushels as against 2,851,500 in the preceding week.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ended August 5 amounted to 1,898,800 bushels as against 2,113,500 in the corresponding week last year.

FROM 48 COUNTRIES: A total of 730,625 born in 48 different countries, were enlisted into the Canadian Army during the Second World War according to figures compiled by the Army's historical section at Ottawa. Of those born outside Canada, statistics show that the largest number -- some 39,907 -- was born in England, and the smallest totals are shown for Albania and Montenegro with three from each of these countries.

Russian-born (the U.S.S.R. and Ukraine) Canadian soldiers totalled 2,850.

Several other countries, by reason of birth, contributed heavily to the strength of Canada's wartime Army. They include Scotland with 18,308; Ireland, 6,585; United States and Alaska, 19,068; Poland, 5,144, and Wales with 2,123.

Almost 2,500 Canadian soldiers first saw the light of day in Newfoundland. Others were from almost every country in the world.