

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

A record 486,000 babies were born in Canada in 1959, according to preliminary estimates based on registrations filed in provincial offices and published in the December issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' monthly report "Vital Statistics". On the other hand, the number of marriages (and the rate per 1,000 population), which have been declining each year since 1957, declined by 4,500 from the previous year to 127,000, the lowest since 1951. The death-rate, which stood at 8.2 per 1,000 population in each year from 1954 to 1957, moved downward to 7.9 in 1958 but is expected to show a rise to 8.1 in 1959 when final returns are received. The report briefly summarizes key vital statistics rates since 1947.

The birth-rate per 1,000 population moved upward from 27.6 in 1958 to 27.9 in 1959. During the period of national vital statistics, the birth-rate has ranged from a high of 29.3 in 1921 to a low of 20.1 in 1937. Rates of approximately 20 were recorded in the four years previous to the Second World War, but since the War have exceeded 27.

Marriages are estimated at 127,000 in 1959 compared with 131,525 in 1958, and the rate declined to 7.3 per 1,000 population in 1959 from 7.7 the previous year. The marriage-rate has been declining gradually from the record 10.9 in 1946 and the current estimate will result in the lowest rate in twenty years. One of the key factors in the present situation results from the low birth-rate of the thirties being now reflected in a similarly low proportion of Canadian-born people reaching marriageable age.

Deaths numbered an estimated 141,000 in 1959 compared with 135,201 in 1958, a year that recorded the lowest rate in Canada's history. Since the beginning of national vital statistics in 1921, Canada's crude death-rate, per 1,000 population, has been reduced from 11.6 to around 8.

Provincial registrars had processed the registrations of 488,984 births up to the end of December 1959 compared with 473,854 in 1958, 130,312 marriages against 134,813, and 139,338 deaths against 133,700. December birth registrations numbered 38,633 compared to 35,787 in the like month of 1958, marriages 10,311 versus 9,757 and deaths 12,477 against 11,740.

As has been the case since 1953 more babies were born in Ontario in 1959 than in any other province, followed by Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta in that order. Birth registrations filed in 1959 were higher than in 1958 in all provinces. Provincial totals were: Newfoundland, 15,092 (14,573); Prince Edward Island, 2,722 (2,558); Nova Scotia, 19,254 (18,839); New Brunswick, 16,874, (16,651); Quebec, 147,883 (144,459); Ontario, 160,881 (153,801);

Manitoba, 23,240 (21,995); Saskatchewan, 24,437 (24,011); Alberta, 38,776 (37,207); and British Columbia, 39,825 (39,760).

Fewer marriage records were filed in 1959 than in the previous year in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Totals were: Newfoundland, 3,123 (3,022); Prince Edward Island, 635 (616); Nova Scotia, 5,331 (5,220); New Brunswick, 4,265 (4,178); Quebec, 34,476 (37,810); Ontario, 46,972 (48,195); Manitoba, 6,661 (6,432); Saskatchewan, 6,407 (6,464); Alberta, 10,450 (10,353); and British Columbia, 11,992 (12,523).

Of the ten provinces, only Newfoundland reported fewer deaths in 1959 than 1958. Totals: Newfoundland, 2,987 (3,043); Prince Edward Island, 1,019 (936); Nova Scotia, 6,410 (6,127); New Brunswick, 4,860 (4,573); Quebec, 35,060 (33,912); Ontario, 51,528 (49,146); Manitoba, 7,548 (7,141); Saskatchewan, 6,922 (6,557); Alberta, 8,720 (8,422); and British Columbia, 14,284 (13,843).

\* \* \* \*

## AFRICAN ECONOMISTS IN OTTAWA

A group of fourteen government economists from Africa spent four days in Ottawa recently in study and discussion with Canadian officials of the various Government Departments, the Bank of Canada and the Civil Service Commission.

The Ottawa visit was arranged jointly by the Canadian Government and the United Nations Headquarters in New York, as part of a six-month programme under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. The group had already spent some time in the United States, attending lectures and group discussions on all phases of public administration and economic development. They spent two days in Montreal visiting the office of the Secretary of Mayors and Municipalities, the Foundation Engineering Company of Canada, and the Aluminum Company of Canada. Some of the group left Ottawa on January 28 to return to Montreal. The others proceeded to Lévis, Quebec, to observe credit unions and co-operatives in the area.

This was the third intensive training programme arranged by United Nations Headquarters for African officials. Similar courses were held in 1957-58 and 1958-59.

The members of the group in Ottawa were: Mr. Assefa Habtu and Mr. Ketema Desta of Ethiopia; Mr. Samuel Egyir Grant of Ghana; Mr. Alpha Bakar Barry and Mr. Momory Camara of Guinea; Mr. Nathaniel Kevin and Mr. Alfred Thompson of Liberia; Mr. Naquib Mohammed Shibani of Libya; Mr. Hirei Cassim and Mr. Ali Mohamed Alane of Somalia; Mr. Mahmoud Abdi Arraleh of Somaliland; Mr. Paulin Eklou of Togoland; Mr. Brahim Turki of Tunisia; and Mr. Abdel Hady Abdel Asiz El-Taraneesy of the United Arab Republic.