

POPULATION PASSES 17,000,000

Passing the 17-million mark some time about mid-April, Canada's population reached 17,048,000 at June 1 this year, showing a rise of 459,000 or 2.8 per cent over last year's total of 16,589,000, according to the annual Census date estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The year's increase was below the record gain of 508,000 or 3.2 per cent for the twelve months from June 1, 1956 to June 1, 1957, the smaller total being due to a decrease in immigration and an estimated rise in emigration that outweighed an estimated rise of about 24,000 in natural increase. However, it was still well above the high average increase of 414,000 for the five previous years between the Censuses of 1951 and 1956. Gain in the two years from the total of 16,081,000 shown in the latter Census was just 33,000 short of a million.

Ontario had again the largest numerical gain among the provinces during the year with an increase of 181,000 or 3.2 per cent to 5,803,000 from 5,622,000. Quebec was also again second with a rise of 126,000 or 2.6 per cent to 4,884,000 from 4,758,000. British Columbia followed with a growth of 57,000 or 3.8 per cent - the largest percentage gain among the provinces - to 1,544,000 from 1,487,000. Alberta was next with an increase of 41,000 or 3.5 per cent to 1,201,000 from 1,160,000, being the only province of the four largest to show a greater gain than in the previous twelve months. In contrast with a decline the

previous year, Saskatchewan had an increase of 9,000 or 1.0 per cent to 888,000 from 879,000.

Population estimates for the remaining provinces, all showing increases, are: Newfoundland, 438,000 (426,000 at June 1, 1957); Prince Edward Island, 100,000 (99,000); Nova Scotia, 710,000 (702,000); New Brunswick, 577,000 (565,000); Manitoba, 870,000 (860,000). Population of the Yukon Territory is put at 13,000 (12,000) and of the Northwest Territory at 20,000 (19,000).

On the basis of the latest estimates the proportion of Canada's total population in Ontario was up to 34.04 per cent from 32.82 per cent at the time of the 1951 Census, in British Columbia to 9.06 per cent against 8.32 per cent, and in Alberta to 7.05 per cent against 6.71 per cent. The proportions were lower in all the other provinces and were as follows: Quebec, 28.65 per cent (28.95 per cent); Saskatchewan, 5.21 per cent (5.94 per cent); Manitoba, 5.10 per cent (5.54 per cent); Nova Scotia, 4.16 per cent (4.59 per cent); New Brunswick, 3.38 per cent (3.68 per cent); Newfoundland, 2.57 per cent (2.58 per cent); and Prince Edward Island, 0.59 per cent (0.70 per cent).

The Bureau's population estimates are based on a population accounting which starts with the 1956 Census, adds births and immigration, and deducts deaths and an estimate of emigration. Family allowance statistics are used for purposes of estimating interprovincial migration.

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POLIO - T.B. DECREASE

Less than half as many cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were reported in 1957 as compared to 1956, while the incidence of new cases of tuberculosis declined about 3 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Reported cases of all types of poliomyelitis declined 55 per cent in 1957 to 273 from 607 in 1956 and the rate per 100,000 population of new cases of paralytic poliomyelitis dropped to 1.0 from 2.3 in the preceding year. Alberta had the highest rate at 2.7 versus 3.1 in 1956, Saskatchewan was next with 2.3 against 0.8, followed by British Columbia with 1.7 against 2.6, Ontario with 1.0 against 2.3, New Brunswick with 0.9 against 1.3, Manitoba with 0.9 against 1.8, Quebec with 0.6 against 2.7, and Newfoundland at 0.2 against 0.7. No cases were reported in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Yukon in 1957 compared to rates of 3.0, 1.3 and 8.2, respectively, in 1956.

Reported cases of influenza climbed steeply in the year to 255,292 from 11,177 a year earlier, reflecting the epidemic of Asian influenza in the fall of 1957. Other diseases

reporting more new cases in 1957 included: diphtheria, 142 (135 in 1956); dysentery, 1,179 (611); hepatitis and jaundice, 3,006 (2,937); and meningococcal meningitis, 345 (285). The increase in dysentery was due to a sharp rise in the number of bacillary cases reported in Alberta in the year's first three months.

New cases of tuberculosis reported in the year declined to 9,108 from 9,377, chicken pox to 32,138 from 36,499, infectious encephalomyelitis to 33 from 46, measles to 49,612 from 53,986, mumps to 22,386 from 28,112, rubella to 16,652 from 52,028, scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat to 8,693 from 11,672, typhoid and paratyphoid fever to 279 from 455, undulant fever to 120 from 141 and whooping cough to 7,459 from 8,513. The sharp decrease in the number of reported cases of rubella reflects the epidemic of this disease in Quebec in the first half of 1956.

Cases of rare diseases reported in the year were: leprosy 3; malaria 1; psittacosis 15; tetanus 9; and trichinosis 24.

Death rate per 100,000 population for a selected group of ten notifiable diseases has dropped 89.9 per cent to 9.6 in 1956 from 95.2 in 1931.