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GROWTH THROUGH IMMIGRATION

New immigration accounted for almost 30 per cent of the total growth in Canada's population in the five years between 1951 and 1956 and natural increase for approximately 71 per cent, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in the first of a series of nine reports in which the results of the 1956 national census will be analyzed. Numerical increase in the total population in the five years was 2,071,000 or 14.8 per cent, of which natural increase accounted for 1,472,000 and net immigration for about 600,000. Even excluding Newfoundland the rate of population growth in the decade since the end of the war has been more rapid than in any 10-year period since the opening decade of the present Century.

An important factor accounting for this high level of net immigration has been the relatively smaller amount of emigration to the United States since the war as compared with some earlier periods of rapid population expansion in this country. For example, emigration from Canada to the United States between 1921 and 1931 was 925,000, whereas over the entire 15 years since 1941 it amounted to only 335,000 and since 1946, or over the post-war period, to approximately 300,000. It is true that the United States immigration quota regulations have restricted the entry of non-Canadian born to that country; but quota regulations were in effect during most of the 1921-30 period as well. The Canadian-born among the total number of immigrants to the United States since June 1946 was 239,000 or about

24,000 per annum, a considerably smaller number than in the 1921-30 period.

Provincial rates of population growth have varied sharply in the five-year period (1951-1956) due to differences in rates of natural increase and migration as between provinces. Comparing the provinces in order of relative rate of growth over the period, the population of British Columbia showed an increase of 233,254 or 20 per cent, close to 4 per cent per annum. This rapid growth was in considerable measure due to a net in-migration to this province since 1951 of 135,000, of which around 80,000 was net gain from other provinces. Since 1941 net in-migration to British Columbia amounted to 366,000. This is the only province where the rate of growth since 1951 due to migration (58 per cent) exceeded that due to natural increase (42 per cent).

Similarly, Alberta recorded approximately a 20 per cent increase in population between 1951 and 1956, continuing the rapid growth that had been taking place in that province since the end of World War II, a growth rate which in this period has exceeded that of British Columbia and Ontario. About two-thirds of the growth in this province since 1951 was attributable to natural increase and just over one-third to net migration. Net migration to this province over the period amounted to 64,000.

Ontario's growth in this period was also substantial. Over 807,000 persons were added to its population in these five years, re-