

POPULATION FIGURES

The estimated increase in Canada's population over the five-year period since the 1961 census was 1,681,000 or 9.2 per cent, bringing the estimated total population to 19,919,000 as of June 1, 1966. This compares to a 13.4 percent increase during 1956 and 1961 and 14.8 per cent from 1951-56. The slowing down in the rate of population growth in the past five years has been partly because of the marked drop in the birth rate in Canada from 26.1 in the calendar year 1961 to 21.4 in 1965, the latest year for which final birth statistics are available. This fall in the birth-rate reflects the declining trend in births over the period, as indicated by the decrease in the number of births from 475,700 in the calendar year 1961 to 418,595 in 1965 - or a difference of 57,105. The current rise in marriages, as the increasing numbers of post-war children reach marriageable ages, may gradually result in arresting the annual decrease in births of the past five years, even if the birth rate continues to fall.

The aggregate number of births in Canada over the whole five-year period from June 1, 1961, the date of the last census, to June 1, 1966, was approximately 2,250,000 compared to the 2,362,000 that occurred in the five years before the 1961 census. This represents a decrease in births of 112,000 between June 1, 1961, and June 1, 1966, from the total in the preceding five years. Since the number of deaths was 45,000 more in the 1961-66 census period than between 1956 and 1961, the decline in natural increases at 157,000, was even greater.

DROP IN IMMIGRATION

The difference in total immigration between these two five-year periods was even more pronounced. Immigration in the 1956-61 census period amounted to 760,000, while in the period 1961-1966 it fell to 539,000 - a drop of 221,000. Since emigration in the

CANADA REJECTS RACIALISM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on August 24 the signature by Canada, subject to ratification, of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had been approved by the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution adopted unanimously on December 21, 1965.

The Convention binds states that ratify it to condemn racial discrimination and to pursue a policy of eliminating it in all its forms. Parties to the Convention also commit themselves to taking concrete measures to ensure the adequate protection of racial groups or individuals belonging to these groups. The Convention further provides for the establishment of machinery to oversee the implementation of its provisions.

Mr. Martin observed that Canada's signature served to reaffirm in an unequivocal manner Canadian agreement in principle with the purpose of the Convention.

last five years was estimated to be about 30,000 greater than between 1956 and 1961, the decrease in net immigration was 191,000. It should be noted, however, that in contrast to the continuous falling-off in the number of births year by year over the 1961-65 calendar-year period, immigration rose steadily. Immigration in 1965 amounted to 146,758, more than double the figure (71,689) in the calendar year 1961. Current monthly figures on immigration suggest a further rise in 1966. In the 12 months ending June 1 this year, immigrants to Canada numbered 165,986.

PROVINCIAL FIGURES

Population growth from 1961 to 1966 was particularly marked in British Columbia, the increase for this province amounting to 233,000, or 14.3 per cent. The size of this increase was largely due to the influx of people from other provinces. The net interprovincial population gain recorded by B.C. since the 1961 census was estimated at just over 100,000. The only other province showing a net gain in population due to interprovincial migration was Ontario, whose gain is estimated at just over 50,000 during the five-year period. Ontario's population recorded an increase of 659,000 or 10.6 per cent, since the 1961 census. An important factor in Ontario's population growth was immigration, some 287,000 or a little over half of all immigrants to Canada between 1961 and 1965, settling in this province. Newfoundland also recorded an increase in population of just over 10 per cent, the high rate of natural increase accounting for the roughly 2 percent annual population growth over the past five years. The growth rate in population of Alberta and Quebec at 9.9 per cent and 9.2 per cent corresponded closely with the Canada rate. The Maritime provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan all showed an average rate of population increase since 1961 of less than 1 per cent a year.

Since a number of the Convention's provisions fall within the legislative competence of the provinces, its implementation in Canada will be possible only with the co-operation of the provincial authorities. Consultations will, therefore, begin shortly with the provinces to explore the possibility that Canada might formally bind itself to implement all the provisions of the Convention through ratification.

RECORD GRAIN CROP

It was announced recently by Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp that the 1965-66 crop year, which ended on July 31 had been as successful as any in the history of grain marketing in Canada. Wheat exports, said Mr. Sharp, had been 546 million bushels, eclipsing the 1963-64 record by 10 million bushels. Exports of both wheat and flour had totalled 584 million bushels. Exports of all grains would be about equal to the record performance of 1963-64.