

INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLDS: Number of households in Canada's 10 provinces climbed by 523,647, or 15.3 per cent in the five years from 1951 to 1956, according to preliminary figures based on a count of enumerators' visitation records of the 1956 national census. This brought the total at June 1 last year to 3,944,469 as compared to the final 1951 Census total of 3,420,822. Adding the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Canada had a total of 3,951,752 households in 1956. These totals include hotel, institutional, and camp households. The rate of increase in households of 15.3 per cent exceeded slightly the total growth of 14.8 per cent in Canada's population in the same period.

All provinces shared in the increase in numbers of households during the five-year period. Ontario had the largest gain, proportionately and numerically, with an increase of 18.3 per cent and 216,503 households, accounting for over two-fifths of the national gain. Quebec was third in rate of increase at 16.9 per cent but second in number of households at 146,090, while British Columbia was fourth in rate at 16.8 per cent and third in number at 57,181. Alberta was a close second to Ontario in rate of increase at 18.1 per cent with an increase of 45,654 in number of households.

The remaining six provinces were below the national average in percentage increases. Their rates of increase in descending order were: Newfoundland, 11.7 per cent; Nova Scotia, 8.7 per cent; Manitoba, 8.1 per cent; Saskatchewan, 6.2 per cent; New Brunswick, 5.6 per cent; and Prince Edward Island, 1 per cent.

A household is defined as all the persons who live in one dwelling unit and everyone in the population is a member of some household. Hence, a count of households is identical with a count of occupied dwellings.

HIGHWAY PROGRAMME: The Federal Department of Public Works is embarked on a \$52 million highway programme for the coming year, Public Works Minister Robert Winters announced May 7. This is approximately \$8,000,000 more than the Department spent on its roads programme last year, and more than double the expenditures of two years ago. The total Federal Government programme for construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, including Public Works' part, is estimated at approximately \$75,000,000 for 1957-58.

Included in the Department of Public Works' estimate of \$52 million is the amount of \$30 million earmarked for the Federal Government's share of the estimated cost of Trans-Canada Highway construction to be carried out by the provinces. The proportion of federal contributions will be higher this year due to application of the 90-10 formula which was initiated in 1956 by the Federal Government to speed up "gap-closing" construction on various problem sections of the Trans-Canada Highway.

The Department expects to spend another \$12 million on Trans-Canada Highway construction through Banff, Yoho, Glacier, Mt. Revelstoke and Terra Nova National Parks, which sections are the sole responsibility of the Federal Government. Of this amount some \$2 million is to be spent for location and construction work on the route of the Trans-Canada Highway through the newly established Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland.

It is estimated that more than \$8 million will be spent on construction of roads other than the Trans-Canada Highway in National Parks, and an estimated total of more than \$3 million is to be spent on highway surveys and highway and bridge construction in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The funds for this work are being provided through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

STATUS OF WOMEN: The Department of External Affairs has announced the election of Canada to the Commission on the Status of Women, one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The Commission on the Status of Women prepares recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on matters concerned with the promotion of women's rights in political, economic, social, civil and educational fields. It is composed of representatives of 18 member states. The other members of the Commission during 1958 will be Argentina, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, The United States and Venezuela.

Canada's term of office is for three years commencing January 1, 1958.

SIXTH DESTROYER ESCORT: Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Fraser, the sixth of Canada's ultra-modern destroyer escorts to be completed and the second on the Pacific coast, will commission at Yarrows Ltd., Esquimalt, B.C. on June 28.

Four of the destroyer escorts—the St. Laurent, Assiniboine, Ottawa and Saguenay—are in service on the east coast, while the most recent addition to the fleet, HMCS Skeena, is now serving under the Flag Officer Pacific Coast.

The Fraser is similar to her predecessors. All-Canadian in design, she has a streamlined hull, and extensive use has been made of aluminium in her superstructure.

FEWER MOTORCYCLES: Number of motorcycles registered in Canada in 1955 was 36,300, smallest total since 1948's 33,900. Peak year was 1950 when 43,700 were registered, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.