

LIFE EXPECTANCY RISES

COMPARATIVE TABLES: The expectation of life in Canada increased by nearly three years for males and over four years for females during the period 1931 to 1941, according to life tables compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the basis of 1941 census population figures and mortality of 1940-42. At birth, males have in prospect 62.96 years of future life as compared with 60 years in 1931, and females 66.30 years compared with 62.10.

Lengthening of the expected life span is common to all regions and both sexes, as indicated by the table which follows:

	1941		1931	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Canada.....	62.96	66.30	60.00	62.10
Maritime				
Provinces.....	61.69	64.63	60.20	61.91
Quebec.....	60.18	63.07	56.19	57.80
Ontario.....	64.55	68.43	61.30	63.92
Prairie				
Provinces.....	65.43	68.19	63.47	65.49
British Columbia.	63.65	68.96	62.15	65.34

At the age of ten, the average Canadian girl may expect to live another 61.08 years, or 2.36 more than was the expectancy at the same age in 1931. Among the males ten years of age, there were 58.70 years in prospect compared with 57.96 in 1931, an extension of 0.74 years.

At 20 years of age, the average Canadian woman has 51.76 years of future life in prospect compared with 49.76 in 1931, an extension of two years. Among the men, at that age, the longevity period in 1941 was 49.57 years as compared with 49.05 in 1931. On reaching her 30th year, the average woman might expect to live 42.81 years as compared with 41.38 in 1931, and the average man, 40.73 years compared with 40.55.

Life expectancy for women at 40 years of age averaged out at 33.99 years as compared with 33.02 in 1931, whereas the average 40-year-old man had 31.87 years in prospect compared with 31.98. At 50 years of age, the prospective life span for women average 25.46 years, and for men, 23.49 years. In 1931, the average for women at 50 years was 24.79 years and for men, 23.72 years.

In her 60th year the average Canadian woman had 17.62 years of life ahead, whereas in 1931 the average was 17.15 years. Among the men at 60 years of age, the life expectancy period was 16.06 years in 1941 being down slightly from the 1931 figure of 16.29 years. At 70 years of age, the average woman could expect to live 10.93 years as compared with 10.63 in 1931, and the average man, 9.94 years as compared with 10.06 in 1931.

Canadian figures compare favourably with those of other countries. Taking the white population of the United States only, the expectation of life for 1939 to 1941, was lower

than Canada's for males and only one year longer for females. The only countries in a list of 18 which exceeded Canada's 1940-42 figures are New Zealand, Australia and Sweden, the latter by a negligible amount for males only. The expectations in Central European countries are mostly about 55, e.g., Austria, 1930-33, 54.5 years; Belgium, 1928-32, 56.0 years. In contrast, the differences with less advanced countries are more marked. The expectation of life in India, for example, is 26.9 years for males and 26.6 years for females. In Mexico it is 32.4 years for males and 34.1 years for females. The figures for other countries of Asia and Latin America are of a similar order.

NORTHERN MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY: The Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, today announced plans for the operation by the Dominion Observatory of a temporary magnetic observatory at Baker Lake in the District of Keewatin, Northwest Territories.

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AIDED

\$200,000 CONTRIBUTION: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced Nov. 29 that the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO has been established to carry out a nation-wide appeal for necessary supplies for the educational reconstruction of war-devastated countries in Europe and Asia. The Government has decided to make a contribution of \$200,000 from the Post-UNRRA Relief Appropriation to be used by the Council for the purchase in Canada, of supplies for the educational, scientific and cultural reconstruction of these areas.

At the first session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris in November 1946, consideration was given to the need for educational, scientific and cultural reconstruction in areas of Europe and Asia devastated by war. The Conference adopted a Resolution which called for the organization of a worldwide voluntary appeal for essential materials and supplies to the value of at least \$100,000,000.

In accordance with the resolution, the Department of External Affairs asked the United Nations in Canada to convene a meeting of voluntary organizations to consider what could be done in Canada in response to the UNESCO Appeal. As a result of this initiative, a meeting was held in Toronto on July 29th of this year at which more than 60 Canadian Voluntary Organizations interested in educational, scientific and cultural rehabilitation, made plans for the establishment of the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO.

The Council which now has established offices in Ottawa will shortly announce detailed plans for the forthcoming national campaign. William M. Birks of Montreal is

Chairman of the Advisory Board of CCRU and C.E. Pickering of Ottawa will act as Chairman of the Campaign Operating Committee.

The Chairman of the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO is Major Vincent Price, K.C., of Toronto, and the Vice-Chairman is Senator Thomas Vien, of Montreal. C.F. Fraser, of Halifax and Ottawa, is Chairman of the Executive Committee which includes the following:

- W.T. Burke, Executive Secretary, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.
- E.J. Carlyle, Secretary and Executive Director, Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.
- Gordon Campbell, International Student Service.
- Dr. C.N. Crutchfield, Canadian Teachers' Federation.
- Dr. N.A.M. MacKenzie, President, University of British Columbia.
- Mrs. Ryland H. New, National President, I.O.D.E.
- Dr. W.P. Percival, President, Canadian Federation of Home and School.
- Dr. F.A. Sexton, President, Nova Scotia Technical College.
- F.K. Stewart, Executive Secretary, Canadian Education Association.
- Miss Freda F. Waldon, Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library.
- Miss Elizabeth Wyn Wood, Chairman, International Relations Committee, Canadian Arts Council.

INDIAN COMMUNITY FARMS: The 1,500-acre community farm operated by the Muscowpetung Indian Band near Regina, Saskatchewan, under direction of field officers of the Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, is an excellent example of the results of a phase of Indian administration which is receiving increasing attention.

On Muscowpetung and several other Indian reserves in Saskatchewan the Indians are taking a great interest in these community farms, which are financed entirely from band funds and whose proceeds are returned to these funds for distribution to the Band membership.

One thousand acres of the Muscowpetung farm were seeded to rye this autumn at a cost of \$5,000, and the remaining 500 acres will be seeded to spring grains, probably wheat.

The Muscowpetung farm was started in 1937 when the Indian Band Council, in behalf of the 200 members of the band, submitted to the Indian Agent a request that their land be put into productive use. Although several lean years were experienced the farm is firmly established today, and provides concrete proof of what can be done by Indians in an agricultural line.

The farm work is done entirely by the Indians themselves, under the supervision of the Indian Affairs Branch, and the individual Indians benefit in several ways. They receive wages for their work on the farm, they part-

icipate in the proceeds through an increase in the band funds, and they learn the most modern methods of farming from well-qualified supervisors. Finally, they put these methods to good use on their own individual farms, produce of which is sold through the Indian agent, who turns the proceeds over to the Indian farm-owners. Thirty-eight members of the Muscowpetung Band own farms, with 1,800 acres being under private cultivation.

Indian Affairs Branch officials speak highly of the co-operative attitude of the Muscowpetung Band Council, whose Chief - John Gambler - is a strong supporter of the community farm idea. Chief Gambler was one of the Indian chiefs who addressed the recent Parliamentary Committee on Indian Affairs.

In the Pelly Agency at Kamsack, near the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary, 1,000 acres are being farmed on a community basis, and in addition some 6,000 acres are under cultivation by eighty individual Indian farm-owners. A further 1,000 acres are under community cultivation in the Battleford Agency, and other community projects of comparable extent are being carried on in the Duck Lake and Touchwood Agencies.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER CONTROL: The existing system of control governing the export of softwood lumber produced in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and which has been in effect during the year 1947, will be continued during 1948, but with changes having far reaching effects for the producers, wholesalers and exporters in those areas, it is announced by the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, Mr. Howe.

In releasing the Government's 1948 export policy for softwood lumber produced in Eastern Canada, Mr. Howe said:

The free export quotas authorized a year ago totalled 290 million feet of softwood lumber for shipment during 1947, the largest portion of which was for shipment to the United Kingdom. However, because of the severity of the dollar shortage in the United Kingdom, and consequent delay in receiving orders from that country for softwood lumber, provision is now made in the 1948 programme for the free export of an overall quantity of 290 million feet of softwood lumber to any country with which trading is allowed under Canadian laws.

Under this provision an exporter may ship to all markets a total amount not exceeding his original 1947 free export quota allocation. In addition to these free export quotas, further quantities of lumber can be exported through export credits earned by shipments into the domestic market. It is hoped that under this new arrangement efforts will be made by exporters to obtain payment for their lumber in United States dollars, thus assisting our current campaign in building up our own dollar shortage.

When reports of softwood production in Eastern Canada for 1948 are available, an increase in the overall free export quota will be considered.