

sons added to the population by "natural increase" (net difference between births and deaths); a record number of children born in hospital (93 out of every 100 for the country as a whole and about 98 out of 100 in most provinces); a new record low "infant" (children under one year) and "neo-natal" (infants under 4 weeks of age) mortality rates.

During 1959 a total of 479,275 infants were born alive - or at the rate of almost one a minute -- as compared with 470,118 in the previous year, with all provinces contributing to the increase. However, the birth rate (for every 1,000 of the population) dropped slightly from 27.6 in 1958 to 27.5. This compares with the record high rates of 28.9 in 1947 and 28.3 in 1957. Birth rates were higher than the previous year in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and lower (or no change) in the other provinces.

#### BIRTHS BY PROVINCE

Almost one-third of the births in Canada were to residents of Ontario (157,124), 30 per cent Quebec residents (142,383) and over 8 per cent British Columbia (39,971), or a total of 71 per cent in the 3 largest provinces. Contrary to popular impression, Ontario has had more births than Quebec each year since 1953, although Quebec has consistently had the higher birth rate. Among the 10 provinces Newfoundland had, as for many years, the highest birth rate in the country at 33, followed by Alberta (30.6), Quebec (28.5) and New Brunswick (27.9); rates for the other provinces ranged from a low of 25.5 in British Columbia to 27 in Saskatchewan.

Of the total of 464,449 babies born in 1959 (excluding Newfoundland), 432,629 or 93 out of every 100 were delivered in hospital, the proportion varying from 82.3 per cent in Quebec to over 99 per cent in Prince Edward Island. In 7 of the provinces 97-98 per cent of infants are born in hospital. Before World War II less than 4 out of 10 infants were born in a hospital for the country as a whole as compared with over 67 per cent at the end of the War and 79 per cent in 1951, although there have always been wide variations as between provinces.

The fourth highest total of marriages on record was registered during 1959; following the "marriage boom" of 1946 when a record 137,398 marriages were performed, the annual number dropped gradually to 128,029 in 1955, followed by rises in 1956-57, a drop to 131,525 in 1958 and rising to 132,474 in 1959. However, the marriage rate (for every 1,000 of the population) has dropped steadily from the record 10.9 in 1946 to 7.6 in 1959, the lowest since 1936.

#### DEATH RATE

Canada's overall death rate of 8.0 (for every 1,000 of the population) is one of the lowest in the world -- bettered possibly only by the Netherlands -- and compares favourably

with a rate of 9.4 for the U.S.A. and 11.6 for England, due largely to Canada's younger population. Since 1921 the Canadian rate has been gradually reduced from 11.6. There were 139,913 deaths in 1959 but had the 1921 rate prevailed there would have been over 202,000 -- a hypothetical saving of 62,000 lives annually. The 1959 national rate rose slightly from 7.9 in 1958, with similar increases in the rates of all provinces except Alberta and no change in Newfoundland and Quebec. Provincial rates vary from a low of 6.8 in Alberta to highs of 9.9 in Prince Edward Island and 9.1 in British Columbia, due largely to differing age composition of provincial populations.

Of the total of 139,913 deaths in 1959, 13,595 comprised infants under one year of age, of whom 8,841 died within 4 weeks of their birth (neo-natal deaths). The infant death rate has dropped from 100 out of every 1,000 infants born alive in the early 1920's to a record low of 28 in 1959, while the neo-natal rate has dropped from 44 to another record low of 18 during the same period. Had the 1920 infant rate prevailed, almost 48,000 infants would have died instead of the actual 13,595.

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#### ENGINEERS TO SOUTH AMERICA

A Canadian mission of consulting engineers will travel to South America in September, the Minister of Trade and Commerce has announced. Mr. Churchill said the purpose of the mission is to encourage closer relations between Canadian and Latin American members of the profession.

In making the announcement, Mr. Churchill disclosed that the Canadian mission will coincide with the sixth convention of the Union Panamericana de Asociaciones de Ingerieros, September 18 - 22. By attending this convention of consulting engineers in Buenos Aires, and then visiting other South American cities, members of the Canadian mission will acquire a better knowledge of engineering achievements and problems in Latin America.

The 15-man mission leaves Canada by air for Mexico City on September 14. From there the group will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru, and Bogota, Colombia. It leaves Bogota for Canada October 6.

Mr. Churchill said that Canada's consulting engineers are particularly well-equipped to understand Latin American conditions and requirements because, in the large-scale development of natural resources in Canada, they have solved problems of a similar nature. They would be happy to share with their South American colleagues the engineering skills derived from that experience. "Indeed," said Mr. Churchill, "some of them have already had the privilege of taking an active part in the economic development of Latin American countries."