

has declined from 42 per cent in 1938 to approximately 23 per cent of the total in 1958. On the other hand, the ton-mile performance of oil pipe-lines has risen from nil prior to 1950 to about 13 per cent and ton-mile figures for highway trucks show a rise from about 3 per cent in 1938 to just over 11 per cent in 1958. Although the tonnage of freight carried by airlines in Canada has increased many times the proportion of the total inter-city ton-miles continues to be negligible.

1958 VITAL STATISTICS

Record numbers of births were registered in Canada during 1958, while birth, marriage and death rates (in 1,000 of the population), were lower than in 1957, according to the final report on 1958 vital statistics recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The report contains, in addition to detailed statistics for 1958, several historical tables showing the major vital statistics trends of the past few decades. During 1957 and 1958 the birth-rate moved downward from 28.3 to 27.6, marriages from 8.0 to 7.7, and death from 8.2 to 7.9.

Preliminary estimates for 1959, released last January, indicated that births would move up from 470,118 in 1958 to 486,000 in 1959, with an advance in the rate from 27.6 (a 1,000 of the population) to 27.9. Marriages were expected to continue the decline from 131,525 in 1958 to 127,000 in 1959, dropping from 7.7 to 7.3. The 1959 death-rate is expected to rise from 7.9 in 1958 to 8.1 and the total number of deaths from 135,201 to 141,000.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Canada's seasonally adjusted index of industrial production rose one-half of 1 per cent in March to 170.8 from 170.1 in the preceding month. The volume of manufacturing production was relatively unchanged, with output of both durables and non-durables showing little movement. Mining production was only fractionally higher, but there was an advance in the output of electric power and gas utilities of 3.6 per cent.

Within the durables-manufacturing group, output in the transportation-equipment industry advanced by 3 per cent, reflecting a rise of 7 per cent in the output of the motor-vehicle industry. Non-ferrous metal products advanced by 1 per cent, while iron and steel products, electrical apparatus and supplies, wood products, and non-metallic mineral products each declined by 1 per cent. For the durables-manufacturing group as a whole, these changes were largely offsetting.

Within the non-durables manufacturing group, textiles and tobacco products showed the largest gains, with increases of 7 per cent and

5 per cent respectively. Gains of 1 per cent were recorded in rubber, paper, clothing and petroleum products. Declines were registered in printing, publishing and allied industries (5 per cent), foods and beverages (2 per cent) and rubber products (1 per cent). As in the case of durables, these movements within industrial components were substantially offsetting.

A fractional rise in mining production from February to March, seasonally adjusted, reflected mainly an advance in the output of the fuel group, with coal higher by 20 per cent, natural gas by 14 per cent and crude petroleum by 6 per cent. There was a decline of 6 per cent in the metal-mining group, reflecting, for the most part, a decline in uranium production.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Ways of increasing training opportunities for unemployed persons in Canada, methods to encourage more young people to stay in school longer, the desirability of setting nationwide standards for technical institutes, and techniques to promote and encourage vocational training in agriculture were some of the problems discussed during the 30th meeting of the Vocational Training Advisory Council which ended its two-day session in Ottawa recently.

Despite the fact that, during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1960, more than 4,600 unemployed persons were trained under Schedule "M", a federal-provincial cost-sharing programme, and that training was provided for many more unemployed persons during day-to-day operations, the Council agreed that expansion of such training was necessary.

Most Council members said a substantial increase in facilities, equipment and staff would be necessary before widespread training programmes for the unemployed could be provided.

SCHOOL "DROP-OUTS"

In opening the meeting, Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour, said he had been appalled at the large number of "drop-outs" of young people from the Canadian educational system, and he asked the Council to consider this matter as part of its deliberations.

Some members of the Council expressed fears that the large drop-out rate would perhaps be reflected in the next few years in the unemployment figures and that steps should be taken to help youngsters and adults to develop a greater appreciation of the value of education and training. It was reported that the Department of Labour had already taken steps to this end using radio and other media, and mention was made of the continuing efforts of the National Employment Service to get this message across to young children and their parents.