

POPULATION 15,005,000, DEC. 1: Canada's population stood at 15,005,000 on December 1 last, showing a three-month gain of 112,000 from an estimated 14,893,000 at September 1, according to the Bureau's quarterly estimate of population:

Over the twelve months from December 1, 1952, the population rose by 381,000 from an estimated 14,624,000. This compares with an estimated 396,000 in the twelve months from December 1, 1951 to December 1, 1952. In the thirty months from the June 1 date of the 1951 Census to December 1 last the population gain was 996,000.

According to the Bureau estimates, there were equal gains of 112,000 in the two 1953 three month periods June-August and September-November, and increases of 89,000 from March 1 to June and of 68,000 from December 1, 1952, to March 1 last year. In the previous twelve months, the gain between September 1 and December 1 was put at 90,000 and for the preceding three months at 104,000; the largest three-month increase being 114,000 from March 1 to June 1 and the winter period from December 1, 1951, to March 1, 1952, showing a rise of 88,000.

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SENATOR MACDONALD SOLICITOR GENERAL: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, in the House of Commons on January 13, announced the appointment of Senator W. Ross Macdonald as Solicitor General in the following statement:

"Since my colleague, Hon. Ralph Campney, was appointed Associate Defence Minister he has found that the discharge of his duties as such has left him very little time to assist the Minister of Justice, Mr. Garson, as Solicitor General. He has asked to be relieved of the responsibilities of the office of Solicitor General. His resignation has been accepted and His Excellency the Governor General has approved the recommendation that Hon. W. Ross Macdonald be appointed Solicitor General and assume the duties of that office in addition to his present duties as Member of the Government Without Portfolio and as Leader of the Government in the Senate."

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RECORD CHEQUES CASHED: Reflecting the high level of business activity, the value of cheques cashed in 35 clearing centres of Canada reached record peaks in November and the first 11 months of 1953, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All five economic areas showed gains in both periods. November's total of the cheques cashed in the 35 centres stood at \$12,977,343,000 as compared with \$11,328,857,000; bringing the national total for the January-November period to \$124,949,106,000 as compared with \$112,810,587,000 a year earlier.

3,641,000 HOUSEHOLDS: The number of households or occupied dwellings in Canada's ten provinces increased by 232,000 from 3,409,000 to 3,641,000 in the period of approximately 27 months from the time of the 1951 Census to September last year, according to results of a special survey of housing characteristics and household equipment in private homes by the Bureau.

Ontario and Quebec accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total increase with respective additions of 85,000 and 66,000, bringing the number of occupied dwellings in Ontario to 1,266,000 and in Quebec to 925,000. Next largest increase was in Alberta where the number rose 21,000 to 272,000, followed by British Columbia with a gain of 19,000 to 357,000.

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FARM IMPLEMENTS RISE: Factory shipments reported by firms in Canada's agricultural implements industry rose 20 per cent in value in 1952 to \$205,775,487 from \$171,172,496 in 1951, according to the annual report on the industry by the Bureau. Farm equipment accounted for \$188,183,920 of the 1952 total as compared to \$158,779,197 the previous year, the remainder being made up of miscellaneous types of machinery and parts. There was a small production of farm machinery in other industries, amounting to \$6,504,000 in 1952 and \$3,570,000 in 1951.

Eighty-five factories mainly engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements were in operation in 1952, an increase from 81 in 1951.

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FEWER AUTOS SOLD: Sales of new motor vehicles in November continued the downward trend which began in September, but gains in earlier months of the year maintained January-November sales at substantially higher levels than in 1952. Financing of both new and used vehicles declined in November but there were increases in the January-November period.

New motor vehicles sold during the month totalled 28,140, with a retail value of \$71,749,138 as compared with 32,176, sold for \$78,591,583 in the corresponding month last year. This brought cumulative sales for the January-November period to 436,817 units valued at retail at \$1,097,879,034 as compared with 375,529 which retailed for \$940,250,400.

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Canada had the lowest general mortality and maternal mortality rates in history in 1952, according to the Bureau's preliminary annual report on vital statistics. At the same time, the infant mortality rate remained at the all-time 1951 low. With a birth rate only exceeded by that of 1947, the rate of natural increase in population climbed to the highest point yet recorded.