

Population Commission

The Population Commission held its ninth session in New York from February 25 to March 8, 1957; it did not meet during 1956.

The Commission, in pursuing its general aim of promoting economic and social development, is particularly concerned with the size, structure and changes of populations, the interplay of demographic, economic and social factors, and population policies, and it advises ECOSOC on these matters. At its ninth session it discussed *inter alia* a number of population studies, including one in the state of Mysore, India, which had been carried out over a period of years; the creation of training and research centres in Santiago de Chile and Bombay; the seminars which were held in Rio de Janeiro and in Bandung; and the 1960 world population census programme.

Canada has been an active participant in the work of the Population Commission since it was set up by ECOSOC in 1947. Mr. J. T. Marshall, the Assistant Dominion Statistician, was elected Chairman of the Commission at its eighth session in March 1955 and re-elected to that post at the ninth session. One of Canada's special contributions has been in the technical field of preparation of standards for the population censuses to be taken about 1960 as part of the proposed world population census programme.

Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission held its ninth session in New York from April 16 to May 2, 1956, and gave attention to more advanced statistical problems such as the acceleration of integrated statistical development. The Commission discussed the statistical problems connected with distribution (wholesale and retail trade and services), industrial census, wholesale prices, price and quantity indexes, population census, public finance, vital statistics, as well as standards and levels of living.

The major task of the Statistical Commission during the next few years will be the undertaking of a World Population Census about 1960, a matter in which the Population Commission is also actively interested. The dimensions of this project may be gauged from the fact that during the decade 1945-1954 more than 150 countries or areas, with an aggregate population in excess of 2,000 million, were enumerated.

Except for an interval in 1950, Canada has been represented on the Commission since its establishment in 1946, and was re-elected in 1955 for a further four-year term.

Social Commission

Although the Social Commission did not meet during the period under review, both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly discussed during the year several aspects of the programme of work of the Commission. A significant part of that programme was given detailed consideration by ECOSOC at its twenty-second session held in July 1956 when it discussed an item entitled "Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies". Earlier, the Council had adopted, at its twentieth session in 1955, in connec-