

VITAL STATISTICS, 1957

Record numbers of babies were born in Canada in 1957, according to estimates based on registrations in provincial vital statistics offices during the year and contained in the December issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics monthly report on vital statistics. The report also contains a summary of principal vital statistics since the end of the Second World War. Death registrations also reached a record total and marriages were second only to 1946's all-time high.

Birth estimates are placed at 475,000 in 1957, up 5.4 per cent from the 1956 record total of 450,700. This would yield a birth rate per 1,000 population of 28.6, representing a sudden rise following two successive declines from 28.5 in 1954 to 28.2 in 1955 and 28.0 in 1956. The 1957 rate is only slightly below the record post-war rate of 28.9 reached in 1947.

Deaths totalled an estimated 138,000 versus 132,000 in the preceding year, raising the national death rate per 1,000 population to 8.4 from record low rates of 8.2 during the previous three years. Marriages estimated at 136,000 compared with 132,700 in 1956 and the record total of 137,398 in 1946. Despite the increase in number, the national rate per 1,000 population dropped slightly to 8.2 from 8.3 in 1956, continuing the gradual decline in marriage rates since the all-time high of 10.9 set in 1946.

Up to the end of December, provincial registrars had processed the registrations of 474,086 births in Canada compared to 447,201 in 1956, 137,230 deaths versus 130,414, and 135,320 marriages against 130,649. December

birth registrations numbered 34,521 compared to the 1956 December total of 32,876, deaths 11,398 versus 9,680, and marriages 8,971 against 8,318.

Birth registrations in 1957 were larger in all provinces except Saskatchewan as compared to 1956. Provincial registrations were: Newfoundland, 15,598 (14,283 in 1956); Prince Edward Island, 2,698 (2,596); Nova Scotia, 20,199 (18,718); New Brunswick, 17,733 (17,025); Quebec, 142,299 (135,245); Ontario, 153,773 (144,089); Manitoba, 22,665 (22,267); Saskatchewan, 23,937 (24,208); Alberta, 36,661 (32,905); and British Columbia, 38,523 (35,865).

Deaths were more numerous in all provinces except Prince Edward Island in 1957 as compared to 1956. Provincial totals were: Newfoundland, 3,117 (2,735 in 1956); Prince Edward Island, 899 (936); Nova Scotia, 6,329 (5,572); New Brunswick, 4,781 (4,698); Quebec, 36,128 (33,502); Ontario 49,597 (48,352); Manitoba, 7,441 (7,119); Saskatchewan, 6,768 (6,644); Alberta, 8,465 (7,589); and British Columbia, 13,705 (13,267).

More marriages were performed in the year compared to the preceding year in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, but fewer in the remaining provinces. Totals were: Newfoundland, 3,280 (3,021 in 1956); Prince Edward Island, 629 (645); Nova Scotia, 5,379 (5,440); New Brunswick, 4,361 (4,443); Quebec, 39,105 (36,930); Ontario, 46,287 (45,633); Manitoba, 6,619 (6,631); Saskatchewan, 6,507 (6,417); Alberta, 10,521 (9,790); and British Columbia, 12,632 (11,699).

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NEW SHIPS FOR COASTAL SERVICES

Four new ships will be built for the Canadian National Railways' Newfoundland Coastal Steamship Services to replace and supplement existing vessels, it was announced last week by Hon. George Hees, Minister of Transport.

Cost of the ships is expected to average about a million and a half dollars each. In addition, wharf and freight shed construction at various Newfoundland ports have been approved in conjunction with the ship modernization programme, Mr. Hees stated.

"The projected improvements are the result of a special study carried out by the C.N.R. as part of the general survey of transportation problems in the Atlantic Provinces," Mr. Hees said, "and the ensuing recommendations were reviewed by my own and other interested government departments."

Preparation of the plans and specifications for the four new ships, as well as the subsequent call for tenders, will be undertaken

by the Transport Department in consultation with the C.N.R.

One of these ships will replace the "Burin" in the Placentia Bay service and top priority will be given to this project, Mr. Hees stated, with the expectation that these specifications will be ready by early summer. The other three to follow will be replacements for the "Clareville", "Trepassy" and possibly one other.

"Operation of these new ships will require some wharf and freight shed improvements", Mr. Hees added, "including a coastal shed and wharf extension at Lewisporte, a coastal shed and wharf at Corner Brook and new freight sheds at Grand Bank, Fortune and Carmanville."

"These harbour projects are being referred to the Department of Public Works and we will be working in close consultation with them so that their work programme may be carried out in time to meet the requirements of the new ships when they are ready to go into service", he concluded.