

based upon the accelerated development of mineral, forest and water power resources and the ancillary services of roads, railways, pipelines and townsites involved in a succession of huge projects—many in previously untapped hinterlands—provided the political and economic climate for a sustained wave of immigration mainly from the British Isles and Continental Europe that totalled 1,387,176 for the period 1946 to 1956 and will easily surpass 1,500,000 by the close of 1957. Some analysis of immigration during recent postwar years will be found in the statistical section immediately following this article.

IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

Along with the contribution of immigrants to the settlement of Canadian territory, immigration also has been associated with the peak periods of growth of the Canadian population. These peaks in turn have been related to certain important events in history—Frontenac's term of office, the American Revolution, the Irish famine, the first building of the railways, the colonization of the West, and finally to the industrialization and the opening of the hinterland of the Canadian Shield. Before 1869 immigration and the peaks of population growth it effected were incidental to the historical events noted. Since the turn of the century the growth of the population by immigration has been the result of government policies and of economic conditions occasioning them. The following statement gives the numerical and percentage growth of the population of Canada from 1851 to 1956. The percentage column indicates the cyclical character of this growth.

NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE POPULATION, TEN-YEAR PERIODS
1851-1951 AND 1951-56

Period Ended—	Population		Increase		Period Ended—	Population		Increase	
	No.	No.	p. c.	No.		No.	p. c.		
1851.....	2,436,297	1911.....	7,206,643	1,835,328	34.2		
1861.....	3,229,633	793,336	32.6	1921.....	8,787,949	1,581,306	21.9		
1871.....	3,689,257	459,624	14.2	1931.....	10,376,786	1,588,837	18.1		
1881.....	4,324,810	635,553	17.2	1941.....	11,506,655	1,129,869	10.9		
1891.....	4,833,239	508,429	11.8	1951.....	14,009,429 ¹	2,502,774 ¹	21.8 ¹		
1901.....	5,371,315	538,076	11.1	1956 ²	16,080,791	2,071,362	14.8		

¹ Newfoundland included in the total for 1951 but not for 1941; without Newfoundland the increase was 2,141,358 or 18.6 p.c. ² Includes Newfoundland.

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA

In considering the impetus to growth which Canada received from immigration, it must be noted that, compared with the United States, Canada has held relatively weak attraction for settlers for long periods. The preference of migrants for the United States pre-dates the emergence of Canada as a separate political entity, and many factors combined to form this preference. Climate and topography favoured the southern areas, as did the more advanced economic conditions in the United States. The pull of kinship and ethnic ties drew the migrants to settle near friends or relatives or near people from similar regions or countries of origin. The United States offered the prospective settler more favourable conditions of land purchase and tenure. With a more diversified economy it also offered more to the unskilled labourer who did not wish to be a farmer. The early extensive development of roads and navigation offered increasing economic opportunities.