

The over-all planning for the 1961 Census is being conducted in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics under the direction of the Census Executive Committee, with the Dominion Statistician as chairman. A number of working committees have been made responsible for the planning in particular fields such as field organization, publicity, training, population, housing, agriculture, tabulation, etc. They report their recommendations regularly to the Executive Committee.

Unlike the modified Census of 1956, taken mid-way between the Decennial Censuses to obtain very basic information on population and agriculture in a period of rapid population growth and far-reaching changes in the agricultural economy, the 1961 Census will parallel in scope the more detailed Censuses of 1951 and 1941. Coverage problems, however, will be considerably greater because the population will have increased by more than 4,000,000 since the 1951 Census, and by close to 7,000,000 since the 1941 Census.

Briefly, the Population Census of 1961 will inquire into the age, sex, marital status, birthplace, period of immigration, citizenship, origin, religion, language, mother tongue and schooling of each person. Economic characteristics will be obtained for persons 15 years of age or over, such as occupation, industry, class of worker and earnings of wage-earners. Males 25 years of age or over will be asked if they had any wartime service in the Armed Forces. Persons in every fifth (or sample) household will be asked their place of residence five years ago, and women in these sample households who have ever been married will be asked their date of marriage and the number of live-born children they have had during marriage. Persons in receipt of income other than wages or salaries in non-farm sample households will be asked the amount of such income during the 12 months preceding the census date.

The Housing Census for 1961 will be taken on a sample basis of every fifth household, as in 1951. Greater emphasis is being placed on obtaining data relating to the physical and structural characteristics of dwellings than in the preceding census. Inquiries will include types and conditions of dwellings; tenure and length of residence; numbers of rooms and bedrooms; water supply; bath, toilet and sewage facilities; home values, rents and mortgages; and such household facilities as heating equipment and fuel used, refrigerators, freezers, television sets and automobiles.

The Census of Agriculture will collect detailed information on the operation of Canada's farms and small agricultural holdings. Inquiries will be included on sizes of holdings, tenure, land use, crop acreages, numbers and kinds of livestock, and numbers and types of farm machinery and equipment. An important feature will be the classification of farms by economic class and type. A special questionnaire will be used to obtain information on wood products taken from farm woodlands, and one for reporting irrigation on farms in certain provinces.

The field enumerators gathering data on population, housing and agriculture will be utilized, as in the past three decennial censuses, to provide a list of all business firms coming within the scope of retail, wholesale and service establishments. Because of the complexity of business operations, information for the Census of Distribution will be obtained by means of questionnaires mailed from the Bureau to the firms listed by the census enumerators. They will include such questions as sizes and types of businesses, volumes of sales by commodity classes, stocks on hand, numbers of employees and amounts of payrolls.

Plans for the processing and tabulation of the 1961 Census results are being geared to the installation in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics building of an advanced type of electronic data-processing machine. This machine will perform most of the editing requirements (i.e., the searching of tape records of the census questionnaires for omissions and inconsistencies) as well as the operations required for the census tabulations. A high-speed printer operated in conjunction with the computer will print the tabulated results. Programming of the tabulations planned for the 1961 Census has been under way since the autumn of 1959 so that the full capacities of the computer may be utilized as soon as enumeration returns are received from the field offices.