

tions to be placed on, the estimates are fully described in the publication referred to in the footnote, p. 127. Certain results or conclusions arrived at in that Report are noted here.

The projections of that study carry the population of Canada from 1941 (the latest census) to 1971 and show the growth as it will be, only if certain assumptions prevail—one of the most important being that no migration will take place between Canada and other countries, or within Canada between the provinces, in the future. Obviously, migration is an unknown factor that will depend upon future government policy which cannot be predicted, nor can past experience give any basis for assuming a consistent trend. The best that can be said is that at present it does not seem likely that external migration will greatly affect the future size of the population. The projection must be interpreted as showing the results of current trends in fertility and mortality only.

Four projections have been computed for Canada. The first was computed on parallel lines to well-known estimates for Europe and the Soviet Union, and disregarded any demographic effects of the War of 1939-45. This estimate indicates that, in contrast to most European countries which expect a declining population by 1970, the population of Canada will probably continue to increase up to and beyond that year, though at an ever-decreasing rate of increase.

The fourth estimate is perhaps of the most practical significance. The high marriage rates of the war years are credited with some effect in slowing down the rate of decline in fertility which has been observed in recent years. According to this estimate, the population in 1951 will, under the premises laid down, approximate 13,000,000; in 1961 it will be almost 14,000,000; and in 1971 it will be somewhat over 14,500,000.

In the opinion of the research group responsible for the investigation, "the probable future population of Canada (in the absence of gain or loss through migration) will be between the upper (first) and lower (fourth) limits of estimates and most probably nearer the upper limit". If, however, fertility continues to decline in the future as it has done in the past, the population will eventually reach a maximum and thereafter will begin to decline. According to this fourth estimate, the maximum will be reached at the end of the century and the population will then be about 15,000,000.

As a result of past changes in fertility and mortality, the population of Canada is getting older. If these trends continue, there will be more old people and fewer children, and the labour force will contain a higher proportion of older workers. The potential labour force will, however, continue to increase up to 1971, both in absolute numbers and relatively to the rest of the population, so that the burden of social dependency will be somewhat lighter.

Section 18.—Area and Population of the British Empire

Statistics showing the latest official estimates of the area and population of the British Empire by continents and countries are given in Table 52, pp. 141-142 of the 1943-44 Year Book.

Section 19.—Area and Population of the World

Statistics showing the areas and the populations of the various continents and details of each country, as in 1931, are given in a table at pp. 168-169 of the 1934-35 Year Book. The lack of statistical data, and the dislocations caused by the War, preclude the compilation of later information.