

prefabricator is forced to move ahead slowly, devoting much of his attention to break down prejudices and overcome inertia.

As understanding develops, resistance decreases. Progress is being made in the formulation and adoption of a standard building code which recognizes that the function of a building code is the protection, not of vested interest, but of life and health, and that performance, not custom, must be the basic criterion. Prefabrication cuts into building labor practices based on craft lines, but offers opportunities for steadier all year around employment for the individual worker, and for work for greater numbers if a mass market for low priced homes can be tapped. The industrial unions were quick to recognize

and support prefabrication because of its benefits to labor, and the craft unions are slowly accepting the inevitable trend to mechanization.

The owners and operators of many war plants who are seeking peace-time uses for their large productive capacity have been looking with interest at prefabricated houses. Aircraft manufacturers, for example, will find many points of similarity between an airplane body, and a prefabricated house. The designing skill, the materials, labor, and productive techniques and equipment which are now going into airplane manufacture are especially suited to the manufacture of prefabricated houses. Other war developed techniques, products, and plants should have much to contribute to the desideratum—better homes for less money.

Population Changes in the Maritime Provinces

By O. A. LEMIEUX

THE decade 1931-1941 brought about considerable change in the population of the Maritime Provinces. It is of great interest to examine where and how these changes have occurred and what is their effect on the composition of the population of each province.

Population Increase

In Prince Edward Island the population, which had been decreasing for four successive decades, showed an increase of 8 per cent during the ten year period, 1931-1941. The urban population increased by 19.4 per cent and the rural population by 4.5 per cent, while the farm population decreased by 7.9 per cent, and the area occupied as farm land decreased by 1.5 per cent. Numerically, however, the increase in urban population was only slightly higher than the increase in the rural. Urban development took place almost exclusively in Charlottetown and Summerside, the former contributing 62.2 per cent and the

latter 32.2 per cent of the total urban increase.

The increase in rural population is found largely in the counties of Prince and Queens, the former contributing 48.1 per cent and the latter 42.3 per cent of the total rural increase of the province. Of the sixty-six townships which constitute the rural area of the province, twenty-two decreased in population and in many others the increase was only slight. The rural areas adjoining urban municipalities are responsible for most of the increase in rural population.

During the ten-year period, 1931-1941, births exceeded deaths in the province by over 9,600 so that without emigration the population increase would have been 11 per cent instead of 8. In addition, there were in the province in 1941, 3,074 persons who were not there ten years before, and of these, 1,611 immigrated to Canada in the ten years which preceded the 1941 Census. This indicates an emigration from the province of well over 5,000 during the decade.

It is of interest to note that immigration

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is responsible for almost half of the total population increase of the province. A study of the birthplace of the population shows that the great majority of the immigrants were persons born in the province who had emigrated in earlier years and returned during the depression period. Of the persons who immigrated into the province, more than half went to reside in rural areas.

The province of Nova Scotia, which had shown a decrease of over 10,000 in population during the decade 1921-1931, showed an increase of 65,116 or 12.7 per cent during the decade 1931-1941. This represents the largest numerical increase of any decade since 1851 and a percentage increase which has not been exceeded since the decade 1871-1881. The urban population increased by 15.5 per cent, the rural population by 10.4 per cent, while the farm population decreased by 19.2 per cent and the area occupied as farm land by 11.3 per cent. The urban population contributed 55.1 per cent of the total increase, while the rural population contributed 44.9 per cent.

Of the forty-five urban centres of the province, a few show decreases in population, many others show only slight increases and twelve are responsible for 87.4 per cent of the total increase of the urban population. The cities and towns of Halifax, Dartmouth, Glace Bay, Truro and Sydney are responsible for over 75 per cent of the total urban increase. The above indicates that the larger urban areas grew just as much at the expense of the smaller ones as at the expense of the rural parts.

The increase in rural population, while considerable, was not distributed evenly throughout the province. Seventy-eight of the four hundred and fifty-two unincorporated localities listed in the census are responsible for over 85 per cent of the rural population increase; no less than one hundred and thirty show actual decreases, while in the remainder the increase was only slight.

As further evidence of the uneven distribution of population growth it is of

interest to note that two counties showed decreases in total population, five showed increases of less than 5 per cent, while four—Cape Breton, Colchester, Halifax and Kings—were responsible for 77.4 per cent of the total population increase, 82 per cent of the urban and 71.5 per cent of the rural increase of the whole province. The farm population decreased considerably in these four counties which is evidence that the growth was confined to a few urban centres and their unincorporated suburban areas.

During the ten year period between the censuses of 1931 and 1941, births exceeded deaths in the province by slightly over 57,000, the absolute increase indicating, therefore, a net immigration of some 8,000 persons. The 1941 Census revealed that there were in the province, 27,646 persons who were not there in 1931 and that 13,661 of these had come to Canada in the ten years immediately preceding the census. This would indicate an emigration during the decade of some 19,000 Nova Scotia residents. It is a fact worthy of mention that for the first time in many decades Nova Scotia gained more by immigration than it lost by emigration.

The immigrant population is responsible for nearly one-third of the rural increase in population and for nearly one-half of the urban. Exactly as in the case of Prince Edward Island, the birthplace of the population residing in Nova Scotia shows that the immigrants were nearly all persons born in the province who returned with certain members of their family who were born while they were away. This is equally true of persons who came to the Maritime Provinces from outside of Canada.

In New Brunswick the increase in population during the last decade was 49,182 or 12.1 per cent, a larger numerical increase than any since the decade 1851-1861, and the largest percentage increase since the decade 1871-1881. The urban population increased by 11.2 per cent, the rural by 12.4 per cent, while the farm population decreased by 9.2 per cent. As in the other two Maritime

Provinces, a few urban centres were responsible for the bulk of the urban increase. Unlike them, however, the increase in rural population was general in all counties except Carleton and Charlotte, where the increase was only slight.

In the decade, births exceeded deaths by over 59,000 and 16,551 persons moved into the province. Of these latter 6,524 had immigrated to Canada in the last ten years. There must have been, therefore, a movement of some 26,000 away from the province. As in Prince Edward Island, emigration was somewhat greater than immigration.

Immigration into the province was responsible for about one-third of the total population increase of the decade. Slightly over half of the immigrants went to urban centres, contributing over half of the urban increase, while those immigrating to the rural parts contributed about one-quarter of the increase. As in the other two provinces they were largely former residents of the province and they distributed themselves fairly evenly in all the counties of the province except the counties of St. John and Westmorland which received more than one-third of all the immigrants.

The foregoing considerations bring out a few evident facts of general application:

1. The three provinces showed the largest numerical and proportional increases in population of any decade in the last 60 or 70 years.
2. Taking the three provinces together, the increase in rural population was numerically considerably greater than the increase in urban population, but, except in New Brunswick, it was not distributed evenly throughout the provinces.
3. Urban population growth was largely confined to the larger centres which benefited from immigration from outside the provinces and grew both at the expense of other urban centres and of rural areas.
4. In spite of the considerable increase in rural population the farm population and the area occupied as farm land decreased considerably. Evi-

dence shows that the growth of rural population was confined largely to suburban areas adjoining urban centres.

5. For the first time in many decades, immigration was almost as large as emigration.
6. Evidence shows that the immigrant population was largely composed of persons born in the Maritime Provinces who had emigrated in previous periods and returned during the depression with their children born outside of the provinces.
7. Emigrants from the three provinces went to the central provinces or left Canada. There was no movement, during the decade 1931-1941, from the Maritime Provinces to Western Canada.
8. The main cause of the population increase in the Maritime Provinces was the fact that a large proportion which in the previous decades would have emigrated did not do so because of lack of opportunity elsewhere.
9. The immigrant population contained slightly more women than men, but the immigration to rural parts and to urban centres of 30,000 population or more contained more men than women.

Age Composition of the Population

It has been shown, so far, that emigration had been much less important in the last decade than in the preceding one. It is to be expected, therefore, that the age groups at which emigration normally takes place will be affected considerably. A study of the age composition of the population in each province in 1941, 1931 and 1901 reveals some interesting facts.

In Prince Edward Island, the population under ten years of age was 201.8 per thousand of the total population in 1941 in compared to 212.5 in 1931 and 232.1 in 1901. In Nova Scotia, it was 196.3 per thousand of the total population in 1941 as compared to 215.4 in 1931 and 228.7 in 1901. In New Brunswick, it was 214.2 per thousand in 1941 as com-

pared to 239.8 in 1931 and 241.6 in 1901.

The population between the ages of 10 and 20 in Prince Edward Island was 196.5 per thousand of the total population in 1941 as compared to 208.0 in 1931 and 239.6 in 1901. In Nova Scotia, it was 193.5 per thousand in 1941, 214.1 in 1931 and 217.3 in 1901. In New Brunswick, the proportion was 210.5 per thousand in 1941, 219.6 in 1931 and 225.4 in 1901.

It is of interest to note that the ratio of the population of pre-school, school and early working years (0-19 years of age) to the total has lowered considerably in the last decade. In 1941 it was 398.3 per thousand in Prince Edward Island, 389.8 in Nova Scotia and 424.7 in New Brunswick as compared to 420.5, 429.6 and 459.4 per thousand respectively in 1931. This feature reflects the decreasing birth rate and the lack of emigration in the last decade. The continuance of this fall is likely to have important consequences in the direction of smaller school attendance in relation to population and also of a smaller number of dependent persons; it will also mean in due course fewer recruits to the working group.

The population between 20 and 30 years of age was in Prince Edward Island, in 1941, 165.2 per thousand, in Nova Scotia 181.4 per thousand and in New Brunswick 171.8. This is compared to 140.6, 149.2 and 148.7 respectively in 1931. This age group is the one at which emigration usually takes place, and here the lack of emigration in the decade is clearly indicated.

The above-mentioned considerations reflect two separate influences, namely, first, the lowering of the birth rate which was considerable in the three provinces; and second, the fact that, in the last decade, the population at the adult ages where emigration normally takes place constitutes a greater proportion of the total population.

The population of 50 years of age and over in Prince Edward Island was 216.5 per thousand of the total population in 1941, 221.5 in 1931 and 176.6 in 1901. In Nova Scotia, it was 199.2 per thousand

and in 1941 as compared to 198.3 in 1931 and 175.6 in 1901. In New Brunswick it was 181.9 per thousand in 1941, 175.02 per thousand in 1931 and 158.9 in 1901. The greater proportion of persons of 50 years of age and over in the population is the proof of the aging of the population of the Maritime Provinces. In the decade 1931-1941, the process was overshadowed by the greater proportion of the population in the age groups between 20 and 50, which is due to the lack of emigration.

Looking at the latter part of life, the increase in the population over 70 years of age will have considerable consequences in relation to old age pensions, particularly in association with the fact which the 1941 census reveals in a striking manner, namely, that the proportion of men over 65 years of age who are among the gainfully occupied is rapidly decreasing. Since the burden of old age pension is borne to a considerable extent by the persons of working age, it is of interest to consider that for each person over 70 years of age there were in 1941, in Prince Edward Island, 8.7 persons between the ages of 20 and 70, in Nova Scotia 10.8 and in New Brunswick 12.0. This figure is compared in Prince Edward Island to 7.9 in 1931 and 11.2 in 1901, in Nova Scotia to 10.0 in 1931 and 12.1 in 1901 and in New Brunswick to 11.9 in 1931 and 14.1 in 1901. These figures show that the ratio between persons of 70 years of age and over and those between 20 and 70 has improved in the last decade due to lack of emigration, but the ratio is much lower than in 1901.

The preceding discussion on declining birth rate and general aging in population will, if it continues, have considerable significance. For example, it will suggest to manufacturers less interest in perambulators and more in wheel chairs and other goods needed in old age.

The age composition of the population varies considerably between rural parts and urban areas of various size groups. The population under 20 years of age forms a greater proportion of the total population in rural parts and in small urban areas than in the other urban

centres. The population between the ages of 20 and 40 are a much greater proportion of the total population in the larger urban centres than in the smaller ones and in the rural parts. The population of 60 years of age and over, on the other hand, forms a much greater proportion of the rural population and of the population of smaller urban localities than of the larger ones. The reason for this is that the birth rate is considerably higher in rural parts and in small urban centres than in the larger ones. The population of working age tends to move to larger centres where there are more opportunities for obtaining work, while the population of 60 years and over would tend to retire to rural parts and to small villages.

The foregoing study of the age composition of the population of the Maritime Provinces brings out the following significant facts:

1. There has been a marked decline in the birth rate in the last thirty years and the decrease has been accentuated considerably in the last decade.
2. The lack of emigration has caused the age groups at which emigration usually occurs to increase out of all proportion with the other age groups.
3. The age distribution has been steadily maturing; during the past ten years, in particular, it has advanced very markedly towards that of an "old country."
4. The population of 70 years of age and over forms a greater proportion of the total population than heretofore and, because of the lower birth rate, this proportion is likely to continue to increase.
5. There is a systematic difference between places of different degrees of urbanization in the composition of the population. Rural areas have a greater proportion of population at the lower ages, indicating a higher birth rate and a high migration to urban centres of persons of working ages. Urban centres of 5,000 population and over have a much greater

proportion of persons between the ages of 20 and 40, while urban centres under 5,000 population and rural parts have a greater proportion of population of 60 years and over indicating the practice of retiring in small villages and hamlets.

Racial Composition of the Population

It will be of interest to consider for a moment the effect of the population shift already noted on the racial composition of the population of the Maritime Provinces.

During the decade 1931-1941, the population of English racial origin increased 17.0 per cent in Prince Edward Island, 14.6 per cent in Nova Scotia and 9.8 per cent in New Brunswick. It is noteworthy that with 38.5 per cent of the total population of the Maritime Provinces, the population of English racial origin contributed 37 per cent of the increase, while in urban localities, with 37.7 per cent of the total population, it contributed 34.9 per cent of the urban increase.

The population of Irish racial origin, during the same decade, increased by 4.3 per cent in Prince Edward Island, 15.7 per cent in Nova Scotia, and 2.9 per cent in New Brunswick. With 10.5 per cent of the total population of the three provinces it contributed 9.5 per cent of the total population increase and with 15.8 per cent of the urban population, it contributed 11.4 per cent of the urban increase.

The population of Scottish racial origin increased during the decade by 0.5 per cent in Prince Edward Island, 10.6 per cent in Nova Scotia and 11.1 per cent in New Brunswick. With 24.6 per cent of the total population and 24.0 per cent of the urban, it contributed 17.6 per cent of the total increase and 22.4 per cent of the urban increase of the three provinces.

The population of French racial origin increased during the same period by 17.3 per cent in Prince Edward Island, 17.0 per cent in Nova Scotia and 19.5 per cent in New Brunswick. With 24.1

per cent of the total population and 13.7 per cent of the urban population of the three provinces it contributed 31.6 per cent of the total and 22.8 per cent of the urban population increase.

The population of racial origins other than those already mentioned only constitute 2.3 per cent of the total and 8.8 per cent of the urban population, but they contributed 4.3 per cent of the total and 8.5 per cent of the urban population increase.

The statistics given above show that all racial origins contributed to the population increase of the Maritime Provinces almost in the same proportion as their ratios of the total population.

It can be said, in conclusion, that in so far as population growth is concerned, the decade 1931-1941 was beneficial to the Maritime Provinces. It gave them a population increase which has no parallel in six or seven decades. Its immigration was almost as great as its emigration. Will they be able to retain this population in the future? Annual estimates of population for the years 1942 and 1943 for each of the three provinces would tend to show that in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, at least, the growth was only temporary and that war-time conditions have reversed the process.

Representation in the Assembly of Nova Scotia

By D. C. HARVEY,

IN this sketch of representation in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia from 1758 to 1944, no attempt can be made to give a detailed account of the reasons for each change or the discussions which preceded or followed such change but the general principle of representation at different times will be set down, the increase or decrease in number of representatives and, incidentally, the legislation dealing with the qualification of electors and the duration of the assembly. In other words, this will be almost entirely a factual account of the composition and tenure of the assembly at different stages in its evolution.

In the beginning, the Governor and Council, under instruction from the Imperial Government, determined the constitution of the Assembly, the number of representatives, the constituencies to be represented and the qualifications of both voters and representatives. They also organized the first townships and counties. In fact it was not until the 1830's that these political divisions were made by statute rather than by order-in-council; and even then the acts creating new counties and increasing representa-

tion had to be passed with a suspending clause to the effect that they should not go into effect until assented to by the Crown.

Between 1756 and 1758, when Governor Lawrence was being urged to summon an Assembly, various proposals for its constitution were considered by both the Local and Imperial governments and finally, on May 20, 1758, the Governor and Council decided that, until the province could be divided into counties, sixteen members should be elected for the province-at-large, four for the township of Halifax, and two for the township of Lunenburg, a total of 22 members. As it transpired only 20 members were elected; but the House met in two sessions and was dissolved on August 13, 1759. On the same date the Governor and Council divided the Province roughly into five counties, Halifax, Lunenburg, Annapolis, King's and Cumberland, to give representation to New Englanders who were expected to settle in the Province in response to the Governor's proclamations of 1758 and 1759.

On August 22nd, the Governor and Council decided that representatives