



Amazing

The wonder of Christmas is shown on three-year-old Carole Smith's face as she watches the annual Christmas parade in Toronto. Thousands of children were among the huge crowd that watched the annual parade.

MORE THAN TWO QUESTIONED

# Eyebrows raised at large families

by DON MCGILLIVRAY  
Southam News

MONTREAL — A colleague whose wife had a baby last week reported that some of the people congratulating him seemed to raise their eyebrows a bit when he said it was his third child.

Families with three children are unusually large these days. Babies are devalued. They were once regarded as an advantage to the nation as well as their families. Now they are often seen as a burden to both.

If a couple wants to indulge themselves by having one or two, their ideosyncrasy is tolerated. But if they go on to have five or six — the standard Canadian family at Confederation — they will have to brave public disapproval.

The difference is shown by the change of attitude towards family allowances. Thirty five years ago, when the family allowance system was started by the government of MacKenzie King, they were supposed to be partial compensation for the contribution parents were making to the nation.

"Since children are among the nation's most precious resources," said the Liberal party of those days, "the responsibility for the upbringing of the future generation should, to some extent, be shared by the entire nation."

Now family allowances are looked on as a way of helping the poor and the clark government — like the Trudeau government before it — is seeking for ways to keep better-off Canadians from getting the money just because their hobby is child-raising.

These attitudes deserve to be questioned. It is a matter of individual choice, of course, whether any couple wants to have children. But the attitude that babies are a burden to the country is based on economic ideas which are, to say the least, debatable.

First, though, Canadians should realize where today's demographic trends are leading us.

The immigration department reported to Parliament last week that Canada's population grew to 23.6 million by the beginning of 1979, an increase of 204,000 during 1978.

There were 358,000 births and 169,000 deaths during the year, resulting in a natural increase of 189,000. To this was added a net immigration of 15,000, resulting from the arrival of 86,000 immigrants and the departure of 71,000 emigrants.

This was the lowest rate of natural increase — about 0.8 per cent of the total population — since Canadian vital statistics were first published more than 50 years ago.

"Total fertility" — the aver-

age number of babies each woman would have in her lifetime at today's rates — has dropped to 1.7. It takes a rate of a little more than two for a population to maintain itself. If the present rate continues for 20 or 30 years, the rate of natural increase will turn into a rate of natural decrease. More Canadians will die each year than are born.

And the immigration department comments: "The economic, demographic and social influences on fertility indicate a continued decline."

Canadians are potentially a vanishing people. We are not admitting enough immigrants — even with the extra quota this year and next for the "boat people" — to reverse the trend. As far as population is concerned, we are like a car that has run out of gas but is still rolling forward on its past momentum.

This raises many questions about the future of Canada's economy:

1. Have we lost an essential ingredients of the productivity of past generations? Periods of fast economic growth have been associated with high birth rates. People have traditionally worked harder to advance their children than for any other objective.

"They think more of the future of their children than of the past of their grandparents," reported one observer

of the spirit of Canadians in 1919.

2. People who favor zero population growth picture the resources of Canada commanded by a population not much larger than the present. But will we be able to hold onto this vast section of the world with its rich heritage of resources?

As Canada's population reaches a peak of about 28 million, if present trends continue, and begins to decline, the world's population will continue to grow to perhaps six, eight, or

10 billion. Will a little nation be able to keep its grip on half a continent?

3. What well the trend towards slowing growth, then actual decline, in Canada's population do to our attitudes?

Quebec's drive to separatism and its hardening attitude towards immigrants are, at least in part, products of a declining birth rate among French Canadians. But Quebec's situation in Canada is about the same as Canada's in the larger world.

SOVIETS REPORT

## 'Racism thriving'

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet news agency Tass said Sunday that the killing of four anti-Ku Klux Klan demonstrators in North Carolina shows racism is still thriving in the United States.

In a New York-dated dispatch, Tass said that "with the connivance of the authorities, fascist thugs from the extremist Ku Klux Klan organization continue committing crimes with impunity."

Four persons were killed and 10 wounded Saturday when two carloads of whites opened fire with automatic weapons at a Communist-sponsored "Death to the Klan" rally in Greensboro, N.C. Police arrested 14 persons, 12 of whom said they are members of the white-supremacist Klan.

The Tass story made no mention of the arrests. "In the broad light of day, racists opened fire with pistols and automatic rifles on a peaceful public meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina," Tass said. "The meeting demanded an end to policies of racism and racial discrimination and a ban on the Ku Klux Klan."

## Roads to cattle markets undergoing big change

WINNIPEG (CP) — Not since the railway era ended the historic cattle drive has the road to cattle markets undergone such significant changes as those of the last decade.

And the growing trend — towards rural auction marts and direct truck and rail shipments from farm and feedlot to meat packers — is seen as a threat to some of the institutions spawned by railway development.

The terminal markets, those sprawling stockyard facilities that sprang up years ago in railway cities from Montreal to Calgary, are attracting fewer cattle each year.

"I can see some of the terminal markets are on the way out," said Lorne Leggat, manager of the Brandon Stockyards and president of the Manitoba Auction Marts Association.

"They say a lot of their facilities are not being used," he said in an interview. "It's prime industrial land and I don't think it can be left sitting idle."

Agriculture Canada statistics show that terminal markets last year handled 26 per cent of the total number of slaughter cattle and calves marketed in Canada. In 1970, their share was 35 per cent and in 1965 it was 42.6 per cent.

Union Stockyards in Winnipeg, owned by CP Rail and Canadian National Railways, attracted 26.3 per cent of the Manitoba market last year compared with 49.7 per cent in 1965.

Up to Oct. 13 this year, the terminal markets combined handled 23.6 per cent of the market and Winnipeg was down to 19.4 per cent.

"The large terminal markets depend entirely on the volume of sales to maintain their facilities," said Peter Gregory, manager of Burns Brothers livestock dealers.

Charlie Gracey of Toronto, secretary manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, said in an interview: "Each of the methods of marketing have to compete with each other to get their fair share of total supplies."

Gracey said the future of any system depends on how well it can compete.

Art Larson, manager of Public Markets Ltd., which operates Union Stockyards, said rural auction marts and other selling methods have had a great effect on volumes through terminal markets.

But there have been peaks and valleys in the terminal marketing system before and "I think we'll also survive this valley."

Some spokesmen say the loss of terminal markets would eliminate a valuable price-establishing mechanism for all classes of cattle which aren't handled in large volumes by rural auctions.



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F78/14	\$ 44.35	\$ 38.37
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