Book Reviews

Roger Love. *Income Distribution and Inequality in Canada.* Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada (Minister of Supply and Services). 1979. 125 pp. Can $2.10.

Leroy O. Stone. *The Frequency of Geographic Mobility in the Population of Canada.* Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada (Minister of Supply and Services). 1978. 131 pp. Can $1.40.

Leroy O. Stone. *Occupational Composition of Canadian Migration.* Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada (Minister of Supply and Services). 1979. 121 pp. Can $1.40.

(French versions of the three publications are available.)

Roderic Beaujot and Kevin McQuillan. *Growth and Dualism. The Demographic Development of Canadian Society.* Toronto: Gage Publishing Limited. 1982. xii+249 pp. Can $10.95.

Canada, from a Pakistani standpoint, is as exotic as Pakistan is to a Canadian. The purpose of this review article is to present to the Pakistani reader four publications with interesting, and partly unusual, aspects of the Canadian society, demography and economy. It would be pressing one's luck too much to claim that comparative lessons can be learned of use and significance to Pakistan. The two societies are too different for that, but who knows, maybe there is a theoretical continuum, common to both.

The exoticism is less than implied in the opening sentence. Over recent years considerable interest and interchanges have developed on both sides. Canadian researchers work in Pakistan on various local issues. Technical aid has been going on for many years. Pakistani students take their degrees from Canadian universities and work on Canadian problems. Pakistani professors teach at Canadian universities, publish in learned journals of Canada and, vice versa, Canadian scholars publish in Pakistan. The Quaid-i-Azam lecturer at the Third Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists was a Canadian; and so on.

The first three of the four books reviewed here come from the series of Census Analytical Studies and are based on the census of 1971. They are uniform in appearance, attractively printed, carefully edited, and of the size 22.5 cm (9 inches) times 15 cm (6 inches). On the shelves of this reviewer there are at least eight other studies from the 1971 census: on earnings, metropolitan areas, housing, fertility, language use, employment of married females, off-farm work by farmers, and poles and zones of attraction. There may have been others. The eight studies are reproduced from typed versions, which makes them bulky; they are of the size 27.5 cm (11 inches) times 21.25 cm (8.5 inches). It is a feature of both sociological cultures on the North American continent that savings amounting to a few hundred dollars will be made on the final product of a study or survey that may have cost a hundred million dollars. None of these eleven publications appears to have been noticed much in learned journals, but a twelfth one has been reviewed by none less than Colin Clark himself, presumably because the subject was agriculture, in particular farm income (*Population Studies* of London, England, 34, 2:423 & 424, July 1980).

Colin Clark drew attention to the record linkages between the population census and the agriculture census. The linkages multiplied a variety of the cross-classifications possible. Pakistani census takers might well consider such an enhancement of data through linking data from both censuses. Substantively, Clark pointed out that proportionately Alberta farmers have five times as many trained farmers as the country as a whole. Only 44 percent of the heads of families on farms rely on farming as the major source of income. "It is impossible to describe the magnificent thoroughness with which the author has analysed ... [the] mass of information [available]". Something similar could be said about the three books under review.

They have more than one title to attention. They report on topics of demographic interest not usually tackled by demographers; they employ innovative techniques of analysis; and they bring out findings of substantive nature, which increase our understanding of human societies.

The book on income reports the impossibility of comparison with the income distribution reported from the previous census. By 1971, categories of income receivers were included – some 11 percentage points – that were excluded in 1961. These were not instances of academic chiselling and fine-tuning of definitions with limited practical importance. They were large-scale inclusions of whole societal groups, which were previously excluded because of methodological difficulties. These additions, made up as they were of well-defined categories, could surely, through separate coding and/or special tabulations, have been treated in a separate analysis. Then, some $600 incomes were wrongly punched as $600,000. These and other difficulties, whether in Canada or in Pakistan, added to the problems of analysis but that is what the life of a survey taker is made up of. He/She is supposed to deal with problems manfully/womanfully, and not throw in the towel under a slight provocation.

If the entire Lorenz curve moves up to the 45-degree straight line or away from it, then we know definitely that the equality of income distribution has respectively increased or decreased. The conclusion is not so simple when the curves cross each other, but that does not mean that useful statements cannot be made about changes in the distribution of income. There are other devices for such purposes in the arsenal of the social scientist. Equality of income distribution is of increasing interest to demographers because of the accumulating evidence that changes in equality/inequality affect the fertility of a society more than changes in income level.

Comparisons with other societies – missing in the book – would be of topical interest to those who wonder where the Canadian society is moving to. Agreed that many of these international data are not strictly comparable, but workers in the business of comparing income and wealth have been at their work for many decades and the comparability is increasing. We do compare national incomes per head of population despite problems of comparability. It is not good enough to say, as Roger Love does, that a substantial degree of inequality remains, with an implied rebuke to the society. Still worse, and with even lesser meaning, it is like saying that HALF (!!! terrible!) of the society draws incomes below the average. This reviewer makes it clear to his introductory classes in statistics that a datum on its own is almost always meaningless. It is only when it is juxtaposed with other data that it carries a message. The impression of this reviewer is that the after-tax income distribution in Canada is more egalitarian than in most countries (yet, and unexpectedly, non-corporate savings in Canada are among the highest in the world), but the author should have taken a stand on this crucial information.

An international comparison *is* offered in the book on geographic mobility and it is illuminating to learn that in each age group migration is higher in the United States than in Canada, though part of this difference could be due to collective households – presumably more mobile – having been included among respondents in the United States but not in Canada. In England and Wales the reported mobility, on a comparable basis, is much lower. One cannot help thinking that these differentials parallel the varying paces of economic activity. Or are we witnessing the mysterious workings of some socio-psychological causations of the levels of economic activity that escape statistical measurement and are not included in the economic calculus? Social scientists have no ways, as yet, of developing an objective attitude. In view of the weaknesses of the conceptualizations that depend on variables available and used, guesses and suggestions of intelligent observers are as good as outcomes of multivariate and structural analyses. These musings are by the reviewer, not by the author.

The high mobility of the Canadian worker is, in the eyes of some students of the society, the means by which the economy will adjust itself to changes imposed by the free trade, should it come to pass between Canada and the U.S.A. The

publication was delayed and this review even more so, but the study is important and attention should be drawn to it. The multivariate analysis techniques employed are convincing and the interest in the stability of the patterns of geographic mobility of Canadians is enduring.

The book is not a study of Canadian regions or regionalism. It is concerned with describing the characteristics of individuals who are and who are not mobile. Age is the most important variable determining mobility, but it is not age as such; it is the combination – the author suspects – of various other characteristics that seems to be concentrated at certain ages. They cannot be measured through the existing census data, particularly when the characteristics reflect changes in social and economic status. This reviewer made an identical observation earlier in connection with income discussion.

The book hinges heavily on the fact that the question on changing residence across municipal boundaries was asked in the census of 1971 for the first time in Canada. The author of the study considers the outcome to have increased our understanding of the society. It also generates inputs into policy formulation through informed data treatments, which were not possible hitherto.

The third book, the one on the occupational composition of migration within Canada, is a lesser treatise on geographic aspects of migration than the second book. In fact, seven areas have been created, geographically absurd, not necessarily contiguous, but homogeneous socio-economically. The migration is studied among these homogeneous regions. This reviewer formed no view as to the usefulness of this approach in comparison with, say, a multivariate regression when the homogeneity of variables would look after itself and the results would "come out in the wash". Nevertheless, the innovation is attractive.

For the purpose of this study, the country has been divided into three regions: Atlantic, Central, and Western. Each region, in turn, has been divided into its metropolitan areas and rural areas, the Central metropolitan area being further subdivided into more urbanized and less urbanized areas. Each of these seven regions was then shown to have a stream of departing migrants and a stream of arriving migrants. The seven areas being homogeneous, the streams were presumably maximized in comparison with any other combination of areas. The arrangement must have displeased provincially-oriented users of data, but it was probably worth while from the standpoint of understanding the society as a whole. In any case, provincial users of data were never very convincing in the articulation of the needs for data tailored to their alleged requirements. They may still benefit from the increases in understanding of migration that will flow from the homogeneous streams created by the author.

This study of migration shares a problem with, say, studies in fertility, when attempts are made to explain past events, whether migration decisions or distant family-building plans, with changeable characteristics recorded at the time of the

enumeration some time, even a long time, after the decisions. However, the author does not say whether the explanatory power of a variable increases with its nearness to the time of migration. The analytic technique used is the multiplicative power model, called so because it involves raising the terms in the model, the effect measures, by fractional exponents. This can also be described as an elaborate application of standardization, popular, indeed essential, in demography. Power models are a subclass of log-linear models. The author reports a breakthrough in the application of this technique to cross-tabulations of migration data and characteristics relevant to migration. He claims to have achieved high explanatory power in migration discussion.

To those used to current prices of publications of Statistics Canada the prices quoted for each of the three books will appear unbelievably low. The Pakistani reader should know that under the Conservative Government that came into power in 1984, policies – almost ruthless – of cost-recoveries have been instituted. Prices of government publications have been raised to levels markedly above the commercial level and today the prices of the three publications under review would be ten or twenty times as high. Only a muted public outcry greeted this policy. It might raise ten million dollars annually, a pittance when put against the annual deficit of the federal government. One must suppose that every bit counts in a society that lives to the extent of one-tenth of its consumption "on the hog". The decline in information levels among citizens with no access to public funds to pay for these expensive books presumably matters less. The tender plant of demographic analysis in Canada needs watching as it hopefully withstands these cold blasts.

The fourth book reviewed is not a Government publication and is still reasonably priced. The book wears well with time. It was written before important changes took place in Canada: the repatriation of the Canadian constitution from the United Kingdom (because Canadian political parties could not agree on a number of constitutional provisions, the constitution remained with the House of Commons in London, England, until 1982), the various judicial decisions, parliamentary initiatives and executive actions affecting the use of language and movement of people, the 1985 declines in oil prices and the associated reversal of migration flow. Yet, the book is so profoundly steeped in Canadian history, reality and practices that it still rings true and will continue being important for years to come. The authors show a superb capacity for marshalling their facts and drawing conclusions. The book performs four services: (i) it provides background material for policy-makers, at both the federal and provincial levels, and for societal activists and leaders; (ii) it serves as a text book for graduate students, thinkers and writers on Canadian issues; (iii) it can be used as a text book for undergraduate students in demography, sociology, economics, history, Canadian studies, gerontology, native studies; and (iv) being well written, it can be recommended to the general reader.

The book consists of eight chapters. The population before the confederation is described in the first chapter and also the role that demography, the French language and Amerindians played in separating the new entity from the menacing and vibrant society to the south. The rather happy – in Canada – story of mortality is taken up in Chapter 2. The role of fertility in peopling the vast, empty spaces is stressed in Chapter 3. The question of fertility, currently below replacement, is left open with the possibility of the "resurgence . . . of a lifestyle in which children play [again] an integral part", though no student of the society can imagine a return to replacement level or, even less, above it. Chapter 4 deals with immigration, always subsidiary to fertility, except for British Columbia since 1881 (page 151), especially during the long periods when Canada acted merely as an immigration sieve for the giant to the south. Chapter 5 is a must for anthropologists and psychologists with its presentation of a hypothetical village of 1000 persons at various points in Canadian history: e.g. in 1867, before confederation, the village doctor would experience during his professional lifetime 465 deaths of children – nowadays eight; people over 65, once a rarity in the eyes of the young, have now become commonplace; and so on. The geographic absurdity of Canada is assessed in Chapter 6 and the changing linguistic balance in Chapter 7. If only the near-million of Quebecers, who went south, had gone west and if only the 1867 agreement had been less rigged against the French in the world of money, banking and transportation, we might have had a truly bilingual and united country. A peek is taken into the future in Chapter 8 and the intellectual poverty of Canadian population policy is stressed.

These eight chapters make up the dual theme of the book: the historically unprecedented growth of the population until the last decade and a half, and the always present duality festering currently into polarisations, a description, incidentally, not coming from the authors. However, not all is lost. The daughter of the first author (page 177), unilingual at the time the book was written, has acquired two siblings since, and – this reviewer happens to know – all three are bilingual. They have been joined by thousands across the country, a development that once brought, in a remote Saskatchewan village, tears to the eyes of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, whom, incidentally, the authors manage not to mention even once. For the Pakistani reader, Trudeau, federal prime minister from 1968 to 1984 and a great patriot of undivided Canada, was known for his persistent policy of bilingualism throughout the country, a model not entirely different from the role of Urdu and the provincial language in each of the Pakistani provinces.

Just beneath these two lofty concerns of Canadian society, the book also presents the demographic dimension of such other policy issues as ageing of the society and compulsory retirement, the psychological dimension of baby boomers and baby busters, the role of women in the society, in the labour force and in the family, the impact of day-care centres on labour force participation and developments within family, and so on.

Some enterprising, close to fraudulent, industries in the social sciences will not take kindly to this refreshing book. Gerontologists will no longer be able to claim that the increasing numbers of the aged are a movement *sui generis*. The authors repeatedly make it clear that the proportion of aged persons increases because of fertility declines. (Both Ph.Ds come from reliable schools of demography.) Child abuse may be receiving an increasing attention from the media, but is actually on decline (page 130). This reviewer is a proud owner of the first edition of the celebrated book by Richard Joy, issued privately by the author. As recently as 1967, no publisher could be found for a book on a topic as critical to the future of the country as *Languages in Conflict*, since published commercially in several editions. The co-authors are of Joy's type.

In Table 2.1, life expectancies end with 1931 and continue in Table 2.2 with mean ages at death since 1921. It was apparently easier to copy the different series than to recalculate them consistently. The death rates in Table 2.3 cannot be "per thousand". The crude birth rates in Table 3.1 cannot be "per thousand women". Table 3.2 ends with a total fertility rate of 3.98 in 1921; Table 3.3 begins with 3.54, also for 1921. The ratios in Table 5.1 are 100 times too high. Age at marriage is discussed as a median on page 125 and as a mean in Table 5.3; the mean is so high that one doubts whether it is limited – as it should be – to first marriages. The public opinion poll on page 154 on the self-importance of regions reads like nonsense. Table 7.1 begs for a graph.

This reviewer read five reviews of this book in prestigious journals over signatures highly respected in the profession. None contained these specific complaints. Is it bad form to show that one read a book with attention?

There is only one case of "data is", always an objective indicator of literacy and numeracy.

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