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Murdoch Campbell MacLean

Murdoch Campbell MacLean, M.A. (Dalhousie), A.M. (Harvard), Chief of Social Analysis in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was accidentally drowned at Britannia, near Ottawa, on July 12, to the profound regret of his colleagues and friends in the Bureau and of all who knew him either personally or through his writings.

MacLean, after graduation from Dalhousie University, spent a number of years in the teaching profession in Western Canada, but resigned his position at Moose Jaw Collegiate Institute to enlist as a private at the beginning of the first World War, in which he saw four years of arduous service, being wounded and invalided home to Canada in 1918. In 1919 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the newly established Education Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics,

and some years later was promoted to Chief of the Branch. In that capacity he was responsible over many years for the preparation and contents of the Bureau's *Annual Survey of Education in Canada*. During this period he also prepared a census monograph on *Illiteracy and School Attendance in Canada*, based on information collected on these subjects at the Census of 1921. The excellence of this monograph and MacLean's high mathematical attainments resulted in his appointment as Chief of Social Analysis, in which position he acted as general editor of the comprehensive series of census monographs prepared on the basis of data obtained at the decennial census of 1931. In this capacity MacLean became in his later years an ardent student of the problems of Canadian population, laying under contribution, besides the information obtained at the census, all the varied relevant information coming into the Bureau, such as vital statistics, migration statistics, etc. Among his more recent publications are: *An Analysis of Stages in the Growth of Population in Canada* (1935, plano.) and the census monographs on *Illiteracy and School Attendance: A Study based on the Census of 1931 and Supplementary Data* (1937), and *The Age Distribution of the Canadian People: A study based on the Census of 1931 and Supplementary Data* (1940). MacLean was also the chief contributor to the elaborate census monograph on *Unemployment* (1938), besides directing the work carried on upon the other census monographs issued under his general supervision. He was a contributor to the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* ("Enumeration and Sampling in the Field of the Census," in collaboration with Dr. R. H. Coats, Sept., 1931), the *Proceedings of the Canadian Political Science Association* (volume V, "Correlation between Population Density and Population Increase"), to this *Journal* ("The Logistic Curve applied to Canada's Population" with Dr. A. W. Turner), to the *Canadian Public Health Journal* ("Age Distribution in Relation to Mortality," Feb., 1939; and "Population Estimates," Oct., 1939) as well as to *Public Affairs*, a quarterly periodical issued by his first *alma mater*, Dalhousie University ("Cape Breton Half a Century Ago," June, 1939). He collaborated with Professor Burton Hurd in "A Projection of Canada's Population on the Basis of Current Birth and Death Rates, 1931-1971," published by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in *Canadian Papers* (1936) for the Yosemite Conference of the I.P.R. MacLean represented Canada at the Congrès international de la Population in Paris in 1937, and contributed a paper on "The Canadian Family" which is published in volume IV of the reports of the Congress. He was elected a member of the International Institute of Statistics in 1935, and was also a member of the Royal Statistical Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

MacLean's experience as a teacher, together with his high mathematical abilities, made him an ideal instructor and supervisor of the work of the younger members of the Bureau's staff, to whose advancement in knowledge he gave his time freely both inside and outside of office hours. In addition many social scientists outside the Bureau have enjoyed his encouragement, co-operation, and friendship. Through these his influence will long be felt. *Requiescat in pace.*

[S. A. C.]