

This surge of growth is to be welcomed because it will help greatly to supplement New Zealand's most scarce resource for future development—people. Clearly, there will be many problems, because the process of urbanisation, which has been gathering pace since the 'twenties⁴, must go on accelerating, with the Maoris increasing their penetration into all phases of the country's economic and social structure, and with the brunt of the pressures being felt in Auckland. It should be emphasised that 47 per cent of Maoris (compared with 30 per cent of non-Maoris) are still under the age of 15 and therefore have scarcely begun to enter the work force; but when they do enter it the great majority of these young Maoris will have to do so, like most non-Maoris, in non-rural occupations. Adequate investment in education to train the rising generation of Maoris for their increasing participation in all walks of life—skilled trades, administration, management and the professions—is perhaps New Zealand's greatest challenge of the immediate future. The distance yet to be travelled was apparent in the census of 1961 which showed that the proportion of non-Maori men in professional, technical and related work was still four and a-half times that of Maori men; that in management, administration and clerical work the ratio was 7 : 1; and that among sales workers it was 9 : 1.

Yet none of the problems arising from these demographic forces should be insuperable, for the Maoris form part of a nation with one of the highest *per capita* incomes in the world and, therefore, with great investment potential for development. This is the factor which so clearly differentiates the Maori from the rest of the Pacific Islanders.

Demographically, the growth patterns of those Pacific Islands for which anything like adequate statistics are available seem to be very similar to those of the Maoris⁵. They too have experienced rapid declines in mortality but continue to show very high levels of fertility. The 1956 Census Report for Western Samoa gave an estimated growth rate of between 3.0 and 3.5 per cent a year, with a birth rate of 40 or more per 1,000 of population. The report of the 1961 census supports this conclusion. Evidence from other Island groups suggests that such a pattern is probably fairly widespread and that only in American Samoa does there seem to be any suggestion of a decline in fertility.

Projections by Dr Norma McArthur, based upon the assumptions, first, that mortality and fertility as estimated from births and deaths registered around 1956 censuses would continue into the future, thus providing growth rates ranging between 3 per cent and 3½ per cent, and second, that there would be no migration, produced the following populations for the major island groups of the South Pacific⁶.

Clearly these populations are going to remain an almost infinitesimal fraction of the world's thousands of millions; but their small numbers and high growth rates have to be considered in relation to the resources available and the political organisation in each island group. To a demographer, these islands present populations, however idyllic they appear to be for the moment, nearer the brink of over-population in the Malthusian sense than almost any other groups of people. Vast

4. In 1926, 91 per cent of Maoris were living in rural areas, compared with only 67 per cent in 1961.

5. The comments which follow on the Pacific Islands owe much to published and unpublished material supplied by Dr Norma McArthur of the Department of Demography, Australian National University, but I do not hold her in any way responsible for any of the conclusions I draw from that material.

6. McArthur, Norma, 1961; 395. Due to rounding to the nearest hundred, there are minor differences between the above figures and those presented by McArthur.