IMMIGRATION IN 1968

Immigrants to Canada in 1968 numbered 183,974, according to figures released on April 2 by Manpower and Immigration Minister Allan J. MacEachen. This is a drop of 38,902 from the 1967 figures but is still the fifth highest in the past 20 years. Of the total number of persons granted landed immigrant status, 16,489 were already in Canada.

In 1967, 222,876 persons were granted landed immigrant status; of these 13,059 were already in Canada. This was an increase of 14 per cent over the 1966 figures. The figure for 1968 is a decrease of 17.5 per cent from that of the previous year.

Mr. MacEachen attributed the lower number of immigrants in 1968 to reductions in occupational demand in Canada; fewer Canadian employers had to rely on workers from overseas in 1968 to meet their requirements. For similar reasons, there has been less incentive for highly qualified immigrants in some professions to come to Canada.

The 1968 immigrants included 9,072 Czechoslovakian refugees who came to Canada in the latter half of the year under a special programme. About half of these went to Ontario, 1,083 went to Quebec and 1,005 went to Alberta and smaller numbers went to each of the other provinces.

The labour force was increased by 95,446 in 1968, of whom 31,635 were in the professional and managerial category. In 1967, 119,539 of those immigrating entered the labour force.

SOURCE COUNTRIES

The number of immigrants from Britain declined from 62,420 to 37,889, while those from Italy declined from 30,055 to 19,774. The chief source countries were: Britain 37,889 (1968), 62,420 (1967), 63,291 (1966); Italy 19,774 (1968), 30,055 (1967), 31,625 (1966); United States 20,422 (1968), 19,038 (1967), 17,514 (1966); West Germany 8,966 (1968), 11,779 (1967), 9,263 (1966); Greece 7,739 (1968),

10,650 (1967), 7,174 (1966); France 8,184 (1968), 10,122 (1967), 7,872 (1966); Portugal 7,738 (1968), 9,500 (1967), 7,930 (1966).

Except for Britain, Italy, Germany and Portugal, the 1968 figures show an increase over those for 1966. The total number of immigrants from Greece and France was greater than those in 1966 but was smaller than those who came in 1967 when centennial year and Expo 67 focused world attention on Canada. For France, the 1967 immigrant flow had shown a 28 percent increase over that of the previous year. Immigration from the United States increased both in 1967 and 1968.

PROVINCIAL FIGURES

Ontario attracted 96,155 (52.3 per cent) of the 1968 total, maintaining its position as the province to which a majority of immigrants were destined; this compares to 116,850 (52.6 per cent) the previous year. Quebec's share dropped slightly from 45,717 (20.5 per cent) in 1967, to 35,481 (19.3 per cent) last year; British Columbia received 27,215 (12.2 per cent) in 1967, and 22,496 (12.2 per cent) last year. Alberta was in fourth position with 15,004 in 1967 and 13,203 in 1968. The Prairie Provinces absorbed some 13.9 per cent of the 1968 immigrant flow, compared to 12.6 per cent the previous year, while the Atlantic Provinces received 2.3 per cent compared to 2.1 per cent in 1967.

A large majority of the 1968 immigrants – 157,559 – were under 40 years of age; 40,530 were under 15 and 117,029 were between 15 to 39; 26,415 were over 39. The total was almost equally divided between the sexes, 93,503 men and 90,471 women.

The occupational distribution in 1968 included 2,385 managerial, 29,250 professional and technical, 12,651 clerical, 3,195 commerce and finance, 9,235 to service industries, 3,164 agricultural, 30,926 manufacturing and construction occupations.

CANADA AT D-DAY CEREMONIES

Canada will take part in special events that are being organized on June 5,6 and 7 by the Government of France to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, according to a recent announcement by Mr. J.E. Dubé, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

The programme will include a service on June 6 at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in honour of Canada's dead. The Canadian Armed Forces will provide a guard of honour and a band. Bény-sur-Mer is near the Normandy beaches where the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division landed 25 years ago. In this cemetery repose 2,043 Canadians who died in the D-Day landings and the subsequent bridgehead fighting.

On D-Day, 15,000 Canadian troops swarmed ashore on the Normandy beaches. The Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force were strongly represented among the supporting forces. By nightfall of that day, it was apparent that the hazardous manoeuvre had succeeded.

FULL SCALE PARADE

The French commemorative programme will include ceremonies on June 5 at Omaha and Utah beaches in the American sectors, and also at St. Lô. On June 6, ceremonies will be held in the British and Canadian sectors. As well as the ceremony at Bény-sur-Mer, special events will be held in the British sector at Ranville, Quistreham and Bayeux. June 7 has been designated as a national day of celebration that will be marked by a large-scale parade of American, British, Canadian and French troops at St. Lô.