

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

then, notwithstanding the downward trend in the influx of what might be called displaced persons, there is still a large reservoir available for movement to this country.

So far as I can gather through an examination of the records there seems to be a new trend in immigration to this country, which might be regarded as beginning last year and is no doubt due to the increasing selectivity that is being emphasized in connection with the movement of new citizens to Canada. Formerly there was a greater tendency to accept these new immigrants regardless of their skills. It would seem now that a screening process is being carried out much more closely. We find that last year there was a tendency for the largest number of immigrants to be people with clerical skills, trade training and even a good many in the professional categories. I have here a breakdown of the figures for the first ten months of 1952. Of the 146,000 who entered during that period, nearly 69,000 were classed as dependents of new citizens who had arrived earlier. Among the 77,000 with occupations, there were more than 20,000 skilled workers, more than 6,000 clerical workers, and over 6,000 professional people. There was also a group of about 18,000 who were classed as unskilled and semi-skilled. They were in the minority, as we can see. At the same time, around 16,000 immigrants entered who classified themselves as farmers.

This indicates that greater care is being taken in regard to selectivity. This may help to deal with the problem mentioned by the hon. member for Cape Breton South, where you have vast numbers of immigrants competing with our large reservoir of untrained and unskilled labour. It is significant too, I feel, in investigating the facts concerning the new trends in immigration, to discover that those people who are specially trained are not necessarily coming to this country to better themselves in a material way. In fact the professional group, until they become assimilated and integrated with our population, are going to find their lot much more difficult than it was in their native land. I would say that those who are coming to seek political refuge in this country should make an ideal type of citizen, because they are largely leaving Europe because of the pressure from communism.

However, this does produce a special difficulty, and I want to deal with it for a moment. Most of these immigrants with skills and trade training tend to gravitate to the urban areas. Speaking in broad terms, we find that at least half of them have come to Ontario. It has been estimated that a quarter have settled in the Toronto district,

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

that is a quarter of all the immigrants since the end of world war II. About 124,000 have settled in Quebec. This presents a special problem from the standpoint of assimilation or integration. In the minister's general remarks we were given no specific information in this regard, and I am wondering what program the government is carrying out by way of helping to integrate these people into our urban areas. It would be much easier to assimilate the newcomers into a rural district, because I believe the community life is much closer and more personal there. It is difficult enough even for a native-born Canadian who comes from another part of Canada to adapt himself to the big, blooming, buzzing confusion which makes up our modern urban life.

We do have some general information regarding the assimilation program being carried on by the government, but I should like to get some information on the following points. It was announced some time ago in the house that the provincial governments were going to be assisted financially in providing educational facilities. I am wondering how many provincial governments have taken advantage of that offer by the federal government, and how successfully the program is operating. From personal contact with the liaison officers of the department, I know that an excellent job is being done in the various regions of Canada. The liaison officer in Winnipeg, in particular, has been active not only in that city but in the western part of Manitoba, trying to encourage voluntary groups in the communities to participate in the responsibility of assimilation and to assist these newcomers in making a successful adjustment to the land of their adoption.

I feel that the government, so far as we can see, has not been nearly as enthusiastic as it should have been concerning immigration. Indeed, most of the immigrants who have come to this country have done so under their own steam and without too much encouragement from official sources. The government, in a general way also, has provided textbooks and facilities to help in the process of adjustment. In addition to the government effort in this regard, I feel it is essentially a community problem. These people are moving into community areas which have all sorts of social welfare services. They have all sorts of institutions and groups such as the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Legions, the I.O.D.E., Catholic women's leagues, churches, labour unions and so forth. It seems to me that the solution to the problem of absorbing new citizens into our way of life is largely going to be found