

Following approval of the programme by the Canadian Metal Mining Association's Labour Committee in September, 1947, the first group of 182 immigrant miners arrived in Canada in December of that year. From then until the end of January last, some 3,000 miners have been settled in metal mining communities across the country. Though most of them have gone to the mines of northern Ontario and northwestern Quebec, groups can be found from the asbestos fields of the Eastern Townships to the silver-lead deposits of the Yukon. By the end of January 1949, a total of 1,250 miners had been added to the labour pool of the Quebec mines; Ontario had received about 1,500; Manitoba, 164, and the Yukon, 66.

We have had indications of the success of the scheme both on the part of the mining industry and the immigrants themselves from many sources. The monthly progress reports furnished by the companies indicate continued satisfaction with these newcomers. Actually there has been a requested increase in labour supply from the European Refugee Camps, from the original 2,000 to over 3,500. As to the miners themselves, out of 700 who have completed their contracts, about 80 per cent have indicated their intention of remaining with the industry.

Last fall another phase of the programme got under way with the arrival of their families in Canada. This has proved to be a stabilizing factor in the whole programme and is proceeding as rapidly as transportation and accommodation facilities permit. In most mining centres, accommodation has not been difficult, and in outlying mines, homes are being constructed by the companies themselves or jointly with the miners. Approximately 100 housing units have been provided in remote communities. To date some 250 families have been reunited in this way.

The assimilation of these people into the Canadian way of life has proceeded rapidly. Assistance given by Federal and Provincial governments in conjunction with local organizations in studies of Basic English and citizenship have been most successful. These people have proved to be an asset, not only to the mining industry, but to the communities in which they have settled. We may look forward to their admittance to full Canadian citizenship within the next few years.

The success of this programme, due largely to the initial careful selection of the immigrants by Government and industrial representatives, is an indication of what can be accomplished by Government and industry co-ordinating their efforts in the development of Canada.

Delivery of power from the Snare River Storage and Power project was commenced early in October last. The project was built at a total cost to the Government of approximately four and a half million dollars. This was the cost of the 8,350 horse power plant and of the 94-mile transmission line. As the project neared completion Parliament passed the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act. By this Act a Commission was set up to facilitate the construction and operation of power plants in the Territories for mining and other interest. Electric power from Snare River and such other plants as may be constructed will be sold at as low a rate as possible, subject to the plants being on a self-sustaining basis. Through the Commission, power will be made available in the Northwest Territories as soon as its need is definitely