

view of reputable economists that there is little or no connection between immigration and unemployment. By contrast, the great contribution of immigrants as producers of wealth, as employers of labour, as consumers of Canadian products, receives too scanty attention. I trust I shall be permitted to take this opportunity to set out factual evidence in that regard.

Since the dawn of the century, nearly six million people have come to Canada; since the end of the Second World War, nearly two million. While there was a considerable decrease in immigration last year, the Government takes the position that it is neither fair nor sensible to entice immigrants to come to this country unless the economy shows sufficient signs of buoyancy to provide opportunities for their employment reasonably soon after arrival.

Critics of immigration perhaps ought to be reminded that it is only a relatively small proportion of the total number of immigrants who seek employment on the open labour market. The yearly movement includes a large number of dependents, as well as workers coming to sponsored employment, or to establish themselves in businesses or on farms. These have little, if any effect as competition on the employment market.

Let us look at 1958, when 124,700 immigrants came to Canada. Of that number, 61,600 were dependents and 63,100 were workers. This latter group included sponsored immigrants, those who came to establish small enterprises and, finally, those who were to seek employment with the assistance of my Department or that of the Department of Labour.

The sponsored immigrants are those for whose admission a Canadian citizen or a legal resident of Canada has applied. Sponsorship is allowed only on the basis of an undertaking that the immigrant will not become a public charge and that the sponsor accept the responsibility to provide employment and shelter for him. This undertaking, either by individuals or by business firms, is a very important phase of the immigration process, since it ensures that the sponsored immigrant will have employment and a home on arrival and enables departmental officials to concentrate their energies on the placement or establishment of unsponsored immigrants.

In 1958, 25,000 sponsored immigrant workers entered Canada. In addition there were 19,500 immigrants classified as "workers" who belonged to the so-called "self-establishment" group, which includes farmers, businessmen and professionals.

In other words, dependents, sponsored workers and immigrants admitted for self-establishment numbered 106,100 out of a total of 124,700 immigrants who came last year. The balance - 18,600 - were workers whom the Departments of Citizenship and Immigration and Labour assisted in finding