

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

of participating in several ceremonies where practically the complete membership of a veterans' organization has received certificates.

In addition to the veterans' organizations, members of Canadian service clubs are also showing a very great interest in this worthwhile work.

It is worthy of note that, among the largest ethnic groups to receive certificates of Canadian citizenship in 1952, were 1,281 persons of Polish nationality. A large portion of these were the Polish veterans who were among the first of the immigrants to be admitted to Canada after the end of world war II. They were men who fought bravely in Italy and in our own Canadian corps in northern Europe, and who cast their lot with the free world when their own country passed into the sphere of communistic domination. I am glad to pay tribute to the manner in which these men are assuming the duties of citizenship in Canada.

In submitting the estimates of the Canadian citizenship branch, I should like to emphasize the role played by the branch in the integration of newcomers. The branch works closely with national and local voluntary organizations and has assisted in the creation and development of some 50 citizenship committees in various cities and towns across Canada. These committees, which include representatives of various ethnic groups, co-ordinate the activities of local organizations that are engaged in the promotion of "civism" and particularly in assisting new Canadians to adjust themselves more rapidly to life in Canada. They have done valuable work and I welcome the opportunity of expressing the government's appreciation of the assistance they have given—and I am sure that I can add the appreciation of the house as well.

At the request of national and local voluntary organizations, the branch has also assisted in developing general citizenship programs embracing such themes as the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy, the problems of newcomers and language and citizenship classes.

With reference to the latter subject, as announced previously to the house the department has offered to pay to the respective provinces a sum equal to one-half of the amount expended by the provinces themselves in respect of language and citizenship classes for immigrants. The citizenship branch will be responsible for completing the necessary agreements with the respective provincial authorities under which the grants will be paid, and for the administration of such

grants. It is recognized that instruction in language and civics contributes much toward the rapid integration of newcomers and the proposed grants for this purpose should be of material assistance in the further development and extension of such instruction.

At present the department, through the citizenship branch, offers free of charge to the various departments of education and other agencies conducting language and citizenship classes all of the necessary teaching materials. These include language texts in both French and English as well as the citizenship series booklets on the geography, history, government and resources of Canada. A fifth booklet in the series on our transportation services has been completed and will be available for use in the near future.

The branch has also produced a series of film strips relating to the geography, history, government and resources of Canada that have been well received and widely used in citizenship classes. In fact, up to the end of last year, over 12,000 prints of these film strips have been sold by the national film board. A further series of film strips on the development of our transportation services is nearing completion, and will soon be available.

The integration of newcomers requires the assistance and support of all citizens and particularly of national and local voluntary organizations. It is intended, therefore, to hold this spring or summer a national seminar on the subject of integration. It is hoped that all aspects of the problem will be explored at this seminar and recommendations made that will lead to further action required to accelerate the integration of newcomers and ethnic groups.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, perhaps before we start questioning the minister on citizenship you might call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Fulton: Just before six o'clock, Mr. Chairman, the minister had concluded his introductory statement on the citizenship branch of his department. There are some questions I should like to ask him concerning the work of that branch. I do not very often throw bouquets around, and I am only going to throw a small one tonight, but I should like to say that I think the department is working along very sound lines in the efforts it is making to convince new Canadians that