

I could go on at great length with a list of the various achievements our country owes to thousands of newcomers, but I think I have sufficiently convinced you of the point I set out to make. I prefer to show you, now, the contribution of immigrants to the professional life of Canada.

Professions and Trades

Of the 2,245,000 immigrants who arrived in our country during the past 17 years, 116,399 men and women practised a profession, while 263,480 worked at a skilled trade. Engineers particularly, who had long been scarce in Canada, were an important element in that unprecedented period of expansion between 1947 and 1957. In fact, immigration has provided us with 19,070 engineers since 1946. All were welcome in one sphere or another of Canadian activity.

Can we imagine the general bewilderment if Canada announced overnight that 5,900 doctors and 18,000 graduate nurses were being sent back to their native land? Yet, that is the approximate number of physicians, surgeons and graduate nurses who have arrived in our country since the close of the war. We have also received 5,023 laboratory technicians, 16,581 professors and teachers, not to mention 4,800 accountants, 11,260 draftsmen, 3,180 chemists and thousands of other skilled workers of every category.

The majority of the newcomers are in the age groups which place them, so to speak, at the starting-point of the most fruitful period of their career. The adult immigrant brings with him training and experience which he owes to his country of origin but which are no less valuable assets to his adopted country. All of this substantiates the claim that a great number of immigrants, by their scientific and technical knowledge, have played a part of vital importance in the development of post-war Canada.

Time prevents me again from making an excursion into that interesting field in which so many other enterprises and many more names would deserve mention. The fact remains that our country must continue to expand even beyond its considerable development of the past years. It needs more than 19,000,000 people to populate its vast domain of 3,500,000 square miles.

In the economic sphere - of particular interest to us here - practically the same considerations militate in favour of immigration. In an underpopulated country, expenditures for the administration of governments, research, education and transportation systems are high, because they are shared by a population too small in numbers. The cost of production keeps rising because the industrial markets are still too limited for many mass production techniques. We are right, therefore, in thinking that a still greater increase of the Canadian population could mean only a greater development of our economy. Production and consumption, the investment of capital and trade, cannot fail to be stimulated by the results of a well-balanced immigration policy.

Production and consumption are not the only fields in which immigrants contribute to Canada. As I said at the beginning of this talk, a goodly number participate in the creation of employment, either by founding new enterprises or by investing capital in various industries.