

After the War tells of post-war immigration

After the War
by Jean Bruce
Fitzhenry and Whiteside
(in cooperation with *Supply and Services, Canada*)
192 pages.

by Geoff Martin

As many Haligonians remember, it was only 30 years ago that Canada experienced ten years of massive immigration, from the end of World War II to 1955.

The immigrants, mostly from Britain, Germany, Italy, Poland, France, Yugoslavia and the rest of Europe, usually travelled by sea and landed here in Halifax. In fact, the trains often left from "Pier 21", right on the waterfront in order to avoid the CN station entirely.

After the War, a record of the million people who immigrated into the country in those ten years, provides a varied, "journalistic" look at the time and in the words of many immigrants. The author, Jean Bruce, has provided binding narratives, "scene-setters", while the bulk of the

book is concerned with the recollections of over 250 anonymous immigrants. With over 150 photographs, the book is also a pictorial history of the events of the time.

There are countless opinions, points of view, and ideas expressed by the immigrants who were interviewed, a credit to the author. In the narrative, many contentious issues, such as prejudice and hostility, are touched upon. One contentious issue was that of Free Polish servicemen who fought in Italy under the British Eighth Army and refused repatriation to Communist Poland. In November 1946, the first of 4500 Polish veterans arrived in Halifax as "Contract Labour", rather than "Landed Immigrants", a status for which they could later apply. Not only did they have no rights considering they had fought for the Allies, they were actually replacements for repatriated German POW's.

One Polish veteran explains it this way:

"We were allies, fighting on the side of Canada. When Canadian veterans came home, everything was provided for them-- education, training, housing. But we were treated like slaves."

I've never gotten over the way we were treated when we came to Canada. We were forced by political events to come here, but we weren't peasants."

There is a great quote by Saul Hayes, the National Executive Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, culled from records of the Standing Senate Committee on Immigration and Labour in 1946:

"Over six million Jewish civilians have died violently and unnecessarily as a result of the preachings of Hitler and of the latent anti-semitism which permeates Europe. It is my duty to say that the number of these victims could have been very much smaller and very many of their lives could have been saved, if such countries like Canada

would have paid due heed to the requests and pleas of their kin, and of Jewish citizens, to grant refuge to some of them while there was still time."

Hayes' thesis has been proven out by Abella and Troper in *None is too Many*, and is a grisly chapter in Canadian immigration policy during the World War II era.

In a 1955 Gallup Poll, only 24% of Canadians questioned said they disapproved of discrimination in immigration based solely on country of origin, with 59% approving of the policy.

After the War mentions, if briefly, the exit of some 4000 Japanese Canadians in 1946 from Canada. With the outbreak of war with Japan, Canada and the United States rounded up all of their Japanese citizens living on their west coasts and put them in internment camps.

Ironically, Roosevelt treated the Japanese-Americans better than King treated the Japanese-Canadians. While the U.S.

released the Japanese in 1944, Canada in 1946 gave all of the Japanese a choice: be relocated east of the Rockies, or leave the country. Many left, their property having been seized.

This whole series of incidents is one that has not been properly "fleshed out" in the eyes of the Canadian public.

Of course, *After the War* provides the reader with many glimpses of the victory and triumph of Canada's post-war immigration.

Most of the immigrants who were interviewed are thankful they got into Canada, even though many of them had hoped to get into the United States.

Considering what they were leaving, such as war torn countries, extermination camps, shortages, and Russian occupation, Canada seemed a paradise to many of them. *After the War* is a good book and worth reading. It offers native-born Canadians an appreciation of the extent to which we take our lifestyle for granted.

Orientation

Wednesday Sept. 7

9:00 am

Campus Tours - All day long from the SUB

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Library Tours - Killam Library

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clubs and Societies Displays - Booths at A&A

2:30 pm

CASH-IN CASH-OUT - Multi-Purpose Room, SUB

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Scavenger Hunt - SUB

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

International Food Fair - McInnes Room, SUB

9:00 pm - 1:00 am

Poor Student's Party and Dance - McInnes Room, SUB



Thursday Sept. 8

8:30 am

Pick-up of Name Tags and Frosh Packs - Arts Centre Lobby

9:30 am - 10:45 am

Success Success - Presentation on Student Life

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clubs and Societies Displays - Booths in Main Lobby, SUB

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Orientation Convocation - Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Arts Centre

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch on the Boulevard - In front of Arts Centre - Courtesy of Beaver

Foods

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Campus Tours - From the SUB

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Baseball Game!!! - Students vs. Administration - Gorsebrook Field (Robie

St. between South and Inglis)

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Afternoon Drama - Watch out for it!!!

6:30 pm - 11:30 pm

Beach Party - Crystal Crescent Beach

Friday Sept. 9

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clubs and Societies Displays - Booths in the Main Lobby, SUB

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Fun Walk - Dalplex

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Inter-University Challenge - Giant-size aerobics class at the Dalplex

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Dalplex Open House - Guided tours

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Peggy's Cove Bus Trip - International Students' Association

2:30 pm

CASH-IN CASH-OUT - Multi-Purpose Room, SUB

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Symposium on Student Sexuality - Film in McInnes Room, panel in Green Room, SUB

8:00 pm

Frisbee Demonstration - Good Times Professional Disc Show - Dalplex

Saturday Sept. 10

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Flea Market and French Cafe - With a dunk tank, of course!! Boulevard in front of SUB

9:00 am

Pick up SHINERAMA kits - Main Lobby, SUB

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mature Students' Orientation - Institute of Public Affairs

10:00 am - 4:30 pm

SHINERAMA

9:00 pm - 1:00 am

Super SUB Explosion - Headlining SHERRIFF - in the SUB

Sunday Sept. 11

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Student Union Reception - Green Room, SUB

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Inter-Faith Church Service - Green Room, SUB

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Movie - "TAPS" - McInnes Room, SUB

9:30 pm - 12:00 am

Cafe Genesis XXII - With Theatresports - Grawood Lounge, SUB