

European countries from which we have been receiving immigrants in the past are shaping policies, making it unattractive or impossible to emigrate.

As I see it, the question is no more whether there should be any immigration, but how many and what kind of people shall be admitted, and what should be done to put the general program into practice. In attempting to answer these questions, we must bear in mind that there is definitely a short term and a long term policy of immigration. We shall deal first with the immediate task ahead.

What is the situation? We are confronted with an eminently practical and concrete problem of which I believe we are able to dispose with as little theorizing as possible. At the present moment there is a considerable supply of persons who are desirous of being admitted to this country. Who these people are, has been stated in your Report of 1946 with admirable accuracy. The Canadian Polish Congress being representative of the majority of Canadian citizens of Polish extraction, is of course primarily interested in the Polish element abroad which constitutes an important portion of the total supply. We may divide them into four distinct categories:—

1. Polish war veterans in Great Britain;
2. Polish refugees in Great Britain;
3. Polish displaced persons on the Continent;
4. Polish refugees, not classified as 'D.P.'s.

Before going into detail, we may be allowed to consider in a few general terms the character and qualifications of the Polish people from which these groups of prospective immigrants are to be drawn. While there does not exist an accurate survey on the exact background of those who are ready to come to Canada, we have reliable information that they include all classes of occupations, skills, educational backgrounds, representative of the Polish people. Moreover, Canada has had in the past decades enough first-hand experience with people of the same stock on which a conclusive judgment can be formed.

There are at present about 170 thousand Canadians of Polish extraction. Over 90 thousand of them live in the Prairie Provinces, two-thirds of whom are farmers or reside in the small rural towns of our West. Another 50 thousand or so are located in rural areas or smaller towns in the rest of Canada.

These figures show that the majority of Poles in Canada add to the rural and farm population which is the strength and backbone of our country. With their high sense of loyalty and democratic ideals—with their great industry and exceptional stamina—they have played their full part in the economic expansion and in the political and cultural development of our nation. These matters have been stated before at length. However, in spite of their splendid record, we must bear in mind that they are the product of an earlier type of immigration. The Polish immigrants to Canada as we have known them in the past, did not represent a true cross-section of the skills and talents of the Polish people. The material from which we can draw to-day is of a very different kind. These Poles are no more the uneducated, partly illiterate peasants, migrating from poor and depressed territory under foreign rule. Culture does not stand still, and the Polish culture in the past decades has been developing in a direction which is much more similar to our own culture than it was forty years ago. The Poles who came before to this country had to learn how democracy works. The Poles who we wish to be admitted have lived in a republic whose form of government was modelled after the pattern of Western democracy. They have come into close contact with Western civilization. They had to make many adjustments and will find it now easier to make a few more. The Polish war veterans in particular have adjusted themselves to Anglo-Saxon forms of civilization. Many have acquired a knowledge of the English language. About 7,000 of them have married Scottish girls, and these families should find as little or as much difficulty in adjusting themselves to Canadian ways as any other families