

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

problem may be lessened, but I am not hopeful that any substantial increase in accommodation will be available although we shall continue to seek ways and means to provide for those people who wish to migrate here.

Hon. members, of course, will have noted that the 1952 figures show a decrease from the 194,000 who came to Canada in 1951. I should explain in this connection that there were some unusual circumstances in 1951. It was, first of all, a year in which Canada's absorptive capacity was extremely high. The second factor was that a great deal of shipping became available in the final months of the year, partly due to the fact that the international refugee organization was winding up its activities and still had ships under charter. These things helped to bring us a very heavy intake in the final months. As a matter of fact in October, November and December of 1951 new arrivals came to Canada at an average rate of approximately 21,500 each month. That did not occur in 1952.

Another trend to which I would like to call the attention of hon. members is the way in which the flow of immigrants came to Canada during 1952. And in referring to this I would like to draw attention to two things that are elementary in carrying out an immigration program for a country such as Canada. The first of these is that the best time for workers to arrive is in the spring, summer and early fall. The second is that the integration of any immigrant is speeded if he has his family around him.

It was apparent that 1952 would not offer as many opportunities for immigrants all through the year as did 1951. For instance, the demand for additional workers in heavy construction, in the mines and in the forests was not expected to be as great as in 1951. Our program, therefore, envisaged the movement of as high a proportion of workers as possible during the early months of the year, with priority given to dependents in the final months.

As a result, in the first six months of last year the new arrivals were almost 20,000 in excess of the same six months in the big year of 1951. In the final months of the year, while the number of arrivals was substantial, we find the objective of reunion of families being achieved, with the number of dependents in each of the final three months of the year exceeding the number of those coming here as workers. The figures were 15,616 dependents and 11,944 workers.

We find, too, that the workers were going into immediate employment. For instance, on January 3 of this year we had only a negligible number, all single men, awaiting placement in our reception centres across Canada.

The actual figure was 5 in immigration centres and 48 in labour hostels. My recollection is that the corresponding figure for the year before would be something of the order of 3,000. I am quite sure hon. members will agree that this is a desirable situation and will make for speedier integration and more satisfactory settlement.

I have mentioned the substantial increase in the intake of British immigrants. It is a matter of regret that I am unable to report to hon. members the same increase in immigrants from France. As the house will appreciate, France itself is a country of immigration and is not anxious to encourage emigration. However, that proportion of our population representing the Latin races was well represented among our immigrants during 1952 and people of French, Italian and Belgian background totalled almost 27,000 for the year.

Those people from France who are coming here are making a splendid contribution and integrating well into the communities where they settle. For instance, during the past few weeks our officers in the province of Quebec have been holding short courses in Canadian agricultural methods for newcomers. Approximately 50 French-speaking new Canadians have been attending this course at St. Johns, Quebec, and I am happy to state that every one of these 50 is on a farm of his own, that he is making progress, finding Canadian farming a good way of life and seeing here an opportunity for his children to maintain the Canadian tradition of the family farm.

All in all we have been getting an exceedingly fine type of immigrant, with the vast majority coming from those countries whose people have demonstrated in the past that they integrate well into Canadian communities and fit themselves quickly to accept the full responsibility of citizenship.

When we consider immigration I believe most of us think primarily in terms of workers. It is true that workers make up something more than 50 per cent of the intake, but we should not lose sight of the fact that dependents are also represented in substantial numbers. Of last year's arrivals approximately 85,000 were workers; the remainder, more than 79,000 dependent wives, children and parents. As a matter of record, almost one out of every four who came to Canada in 1952 was a child 14 years of age or younger. Again I suggest that this is a healthy characteristic of the Canadian immigration program.

We had in 1952 a 20 per cent increase in the number coming here from the United States. And along with the increased flow of United States citizens coming to Canada