

In Trois-Rivières, two Frenchmen, André Boisselier and Jean Maurel, less than a year after their arrival in Canada, founded "La combustion économique", an enterprise which specialized in the installation of heating and refrigeration systems. The firm has prospered continually since it was established in the spring of 1959.

We cannot be unaware of the significance to the economy of our country of the enterprises thus created by immigrants. The 11,304 New Canadians who established themselves independently in the course of the last 14 years paid \$144,658,400 for their various businesses. Of that amount more than \$88 million represented down payments. These immigrant enterprises have provided employment for nearly 52,000 persons. It must not be forgotten as well that all of those industries, from the smallest to the largest, represent not only men at work and salaries paid, but also increased economic activity - in short, a boost in the national income.

It may be interesting to notice here that, of the 2,336 immigrants who started their own enterprises during the past year, 1,676 went into business and industry, while 660 chose to operate their own farms. The fact that the number of commercial enterprises was more than double that of farm establishments undoubtedly reflects the current trend of Canada towards industrialization.

#### Contribution to Agriculture

Although immigrants tend to settle increasingly in urban centres, Canadian agriculture reaped many advantages from thousands of newcomers. From 1950 to the end of 1963, immigrants purchased 7,807 farms and rented more than 1,300 others. That allowed for the settlement of some 10,000 owners and tenants who, with their dependents, numbered over 40,000 persons. The purchase prices of those farms amounted to \$109,113,215. On this sum immigrants made down payments of \$40 million. The majority of New Canadian farmers engage in mixed farming or dairying. Others are in stock raising, chicken farming, the production of honey, beets, tobacco or wheat.

New agriculturalists have not only filled farm vacancies caused by the exodus of many young people from the country to the city, they have also developed lands which Canadians had considered unproductive. The story of the cultivation of Holland Marsh, near Toronto, by Dutch immigrants is well known today. The drainage work at Alfred and Moose Creek, between Ottawa and Montreal, is not so familiar. Two vast stretches of farm land, one of 5,000 acres and the other of 4,500 acres, have emerged from what was abandoned marshland. Those areas now produce various kinds of vegetables and the crops are increasing from year to year.

In the Province of Quebec, because of the initiative and steadfastness of immigrants, we have seen the black and muddy earth around Sherrington, some 30 miles from Montreal, transformed into fertile soil. French industrialists bought 2,400 acres at Sherrington and 1,000 acres near Ste. Clotilde to provide vast agricultural centres. The new enterprise, "Société de culture des Terres Noires", opened in 1959 a million-dollar plant for the canning and refrigeration of vegetables. The same group of French industrialists bought a stretch of 2,800 acres at Ste. Elisabeth on which to establish a stock farm.