

IMMIGRATION ADJUSTMENT PLAN

The following is part of a statement made on March 11 by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. Jean Marchand, on the occasion of the launching of a pilot project for the reception, adjustment and integration of immigrants in the Province of Quebec.

I am very happy this morning to inaugurate one of our newest undertakings, a pilot project destined to pave the way to a complete programme of services for immigrants. The object of the programme is to cushion their first contact with their country of adoption, and to create a climate of confidence. I am also very happy to underline the co-operation between my Department and the Quebec Immigration Services and the Quebec Department of Education.

The programme which we are launching today here in Quebec takes into account all the needs of immigrants, from the moment of their arrival until they have adjusted themselves to the new country. The immigrants will be welcomed in Quebec City by manpower counsellors and given immediate help. They will be provided with the information they require on personal problems, financial, medical or social assistance, transportation and lodging. The same day, if possible, counsellors will inform immigrants of the various services available to them and which they most likely will require shortly, such as education, medical insurance and family allowances.

Our counsellors will endeavour to discover the particular needs of each immigrant. They will register him with the Canada Manpower Centre at his

destination and, if he is qualified, recommend him to a potential employer.

SPECIAL COURSES

One of the original aspects of this project are courses that will be given by the Quebec Department of Education on various aspects of Canadian life. The courses will be presented within the framework of the Adult Vocational Training Service. Situations which are most likely to differ from those of the native country of the immigrant will be the subject of those courses: government services, educational systems, social legislation, working conditions are some of them. Others include credit and banking, money and measures. It is important for us to realize that questions which appear obvious to us can be very complicated for someone who has just arrived here from another milieu.

Special language courses also will be provided. The Department of the Secretary of State is co-operating with private agencies in Quebec City to present special study sessions, afternoon and evening, for the wives and children of immigrants. This portion of the project will include a visiting programme to new Canadian families in the area. This will be done in close association with la Fraternité canadienne.

After the project has been given a fair trial, it will be assessed. If it has made a substantial contribution to the early adjustment of immigrants, and I am optimistic that it will, then we would hope to adopt a similar approach not only elsewhere in the province but throughout Canada....

HISTORIC SITES POLICY

Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, tabled a statement in the House of Commons on March 4 regarding the policy of Canadian national historic sites.

"The policy statement," Mr. Laing said, "deals with the following subjects, among others: criteria for designating national historic sites; need for a comprehensive and balanced historic sites programme and for a national master plan and master plans for each individual park; and methods of commemoration."

"This important policy," he continued, "has been recommended to me by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which advises me on historical matters. I have accepted their recommendation. The Board feels, and I certainly agree, that this statement of policy should be given wide publicity. I believe we are the first country to introduce a national policy statement for national historic sites, just as we were the first to introduce a national parks policy in 1964."

The need for a comprehensive and well-balanced historic sites programme is emphasized by the fact

that, up to now, the programme had tended to be unbalanced thematically and geographically, with undue emphasis on military history while other equally important areas have not been dealt with. Under the new policy, every effort will be made to interpret all the major themes of Canadian history, and to ensure that there is appropriate geographic representation of historic parks and sites throughout Canada.

Mr. Laing pointed out that, between 1957 and the end of 1967, attendance at national historic parks and sites had increased from 429,122 to almost 2.5 million. In centennial year, average attendance increased by almost a third over previous years.

GORDON RESIGNS

The Prime Minister has announced that he has accepted the resignation of Mr. Walter L. Gordon as President of the Privy Council, effective March 11.

In accepting Mr. Gordon's resignation, Mr. Pearson assured him of his appreciation for the distinguished service he has given to Canada.