

"In addition to the establishment of small businesses, many immigrants have engaged successfully in agriculture. Between 1950 and the end of 1958, they purchased 3,879 farms and rented 849 others. These provided for the establishment of 5,141 owners and tenants who, with their dependents, numbered 23,235. The overall price of these properties was \$43,647,500, against which immigrants made down payments totalling \$14,226,900.

"In 1958 alone they purchased farms in every province with the exception of Newfoundland. These totalled 786, in addition to 83 which were rented. These ventures accounted for the establishment of 865 immigrants, involved 4,132 operators and dependents, and gave employment to 1,263 persons. The over-all purchase price amounted to \$10,063,800 against which down payments of \$3,266,500 were made.

"The majority of immigrants buying or renting farms in 1958 engaged in mixed farming - 471 mixed farms out of a total of 869. Dairy farms were next with 166, followed by tobacco farms with 38, and fruit farms with 36. Others engaged in beef cattle farming, bee keeping, canning crops, fur farming, market gardening, nursery and greenhouse production, poultry farming, sheep farming, ranching, sugar beet growing and wheat farming.

"But immigrants are consumers as well as producers and here their contribution has been enormous. In the nearly two million immigrants who have come since the Second World War, Canada has found a large home market. Many merchants in communities most affected by the influx of immigrants were quick to recognize the purchasing power of this new pool of customers, and have introduced many lines of merchandise designed to attract their trade.

"It is to be remembered that the immigrant market is one which is constantly expanding. A high proportion of the yearly intake is composed of young people. Not only is there a demand for supplies to equip parental homes but also, as the years go on, to provide for the homes of their children. Of the 124,700 immigrants who arrived in Canada in 1958, more than 58,000 were between the ages of 15 and 29 - almost half of the total for the year. Surveys of immigration figures of other years also emphasize the youthful character of newcomers.

"At the beginning of 1951, post-war immigration into Canada had reached 430,389. In that year the census revealed rather striking features in the purchasing habits of newcomers. It was found, for instance, that in that short period immigrants had established 62,160 households and had purchased 43,215 electric or gas ranges, 26,360 mechanical refrigerators, 32,105 powered washing machines, 18,065 electric vacuum cleaners, 51,900 radios, 20,255 passenger automobiles and had 30,085 telephones.

"Impressive as they are, these figures do not take into account food, wearing apparel

and a wide range of consumer goods which form the basic necessities of life.

"Using the 1951 census figures as a base, it is possible to make a fairly accurate estimate of consumer expenditures by immigrants in recent years. Between 1951 and the end of 1958, immigrants numbered approximately 1,365,000 - roughly four times the number who arrived in the immediate post-war period. Using the census yardstick, immigrants during that period would have established more than 248,000 households and purchased nearly 173,000 electric or gas ranges, more than 105,000 mechanical refrigerators, more than 128,000 powered washing machines, more than 72,000 electric vacuum cleaners, more than 297,000 radios, 81,000 passenger automobiles. They also spoke in a multiplicity of tongues through 120,000 telephones in their homes.

"In addition to the part played by immigrants as producers and as consumers, there is yet another field in which Canada has benefited by immigration. Between 1946 and the end of 1958, immigrants brought into this country approximately \$800 million in cash and securities as well as some \$300 million in settlers' effects. In 1957 alone, the last year for which figures are available, newcomers brought to Canada \$101 million in visible assets and \$41,800,000 in settlers' effects.

"And, as ordinary mortals, immigrants in 1957 paid an amount estimated at \$190 millions in direct taxation, and saved some \$146 millions.

"But immigrants are much more than an important economic factor. It is too often forgotten that they are our fellow workers, our employers and employees, that they attend our churches and schools and patronize our business establishments, that their children are the playmates and companions of our children, that, like ourselves, they have hopes and ambitions.

"As descendants of immigrants, we know that the story of immigration is indeed the story of our country. The map of Canada is dotted with placenames which spell the names of pioneers or of the communities from which they emigrated. The first Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald was an immigrant, as were also Robert Service and Stephen Leacock. The rich Turner Valley was named after a couple of Scottish immigrants, Robert and James Turner, who settled in the West in 1866. The pioneers of bygone days who settled the plains of the West, who made fruitful the Niagara peninsula, the Annapolis and Okanagan valleys, who tapped the minerals of the Laurentian shield, have been followed by other immigrants who made Kitimat possible, who helped to build the St. Lawrence Seaway, opened the riches of Elliott Lake and Knob Lake, who have established industries and tilled the farmlands from one end of the country to the other. They are the worthy successors of the pioneers of former years.