

## THE ACT

Canada's Immigration Act, as it has been for many years past is a non-Immigration Act. Its main purpose seems to be exclusion. The object in view in most of its sections is to keep people out; not let them in, and the authority to amend the law which is given to the Executive has been used by Order in Council to prohibit all immigration, with very restricted exceptions. Little is to be gained by a discussion of the Act in its detail. What is needed is a new policy of selective attraction to replace that of repulsion and a vigorous administration, that will search out, a reasonable number of immigrants who are desirable and then find means of bringing them here and of assisting them in being successful after their arrival. They should be welcomed and taught the advantages of life in this country, and be made into Canadian citizens in spirit as well as in fact as rapidly as possible.

The unenviable task of our Immigration Department during the past years has been almost entirely negative. A great battery of letter writers has been engaged in explaining why nothing can be done and in making the best case possible out of every excuse. Our immigration officials would indeed be happy to see the last of such a policy.

Any suggestion of discrimination based upon either race or religion should be scrupulously avoided both in the Act and in its administration, the limitation of Asiatic immigration being based, of course, on problems of absorption. Unnecessary and technical restrictions such as the requirement of direct travel from the country of origin, the possession of funds when support is made available by others and mere degrees of consanguinity or relationship, should be cleared away, leaving to those in charge the freest exercise of discretion in the choice of those desirable, when not admissible as of right, having due regard for priority to those brought here on the responsibility of friends or relatives.

## IMMIGRATION IS DESIRABLE

After a careful consideration of the evidence submitted, your Committee is of opinion that it is desirable that immigrants be admitted to Canada in substantial numbers, and commencing so soon as possible. Canada's ability to support a substantial increase in population is beyond question. The wisdom of Canada withholding from the crowded lands of Europe access to her vast areas and unused resources is at least open to doubt.

The immigrants admitted should be carefully selected. Canada should not stand inactively by, accepting possibly those who apply. Government agencies should vigorously search out those who by character and skill in industry or agriculture may be expected to enhance our human resources as a nation and to add to our productive power.

People from the British Isles have the advantage of common language and a grounded understanding of Canadian political institutions and modes of living, but no definite rules can be laid down in this regard. Great Britain's manpower should not be depleted by large scale migration nor is anything of the kind likely to be encouraged by the British Government. An invitation should be extended and facilities afforded for those of character and ability who care to come.

Good prospective immigrants are not confined to any one locality. Your Committee has been greatly impressed with the accomplishments in Canada of the men and women from all parts of Europe who came here in considerable numbers in the years preceding the First Great War

## AVAILABILITY

That desirable immigrants in considerable numbers are available now is well established. Europe is still in a sadly disturbed condition and many good citizens who at one time were engaged successfully in industry or agriculture