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Some persons have expressed the fear that immigration would lead to a reduction in our standard of living. This need not be the case, and the reverse will be the result if immigration is properly planned. A larger population will help us to develop the resources of this country. It will also provide a larger group of consumers to reduce the present dependence of our country on external trade. The essential thing is to select our immigrants with care and to adjust the flow to the absorptive capacity of the country.

I would emphasize that absorptive capacity is of the utmost importance, since it will be no gain to Canada to receive new population merely to replace our native born youth. In our history, we have received millions of immigrants, but we have also lost millions by emigration, a large proportion of whom were our own young people. Our objective must be to take in all the new population we can absorb, but not to exceed that amount.

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding with regard to the selection of immigrants. Much has been said about discrimination. I want to make it quite clear, that Canada is perfectly within her rights in selecting the persons whom we regard as desirable future citizens.