

*Immigration Act*

from private bodies vitally interested in the legislation.

The act itself contains no discriminatory provisions whatever against any persons on the grounds of race. It does provide, however, for the making of regulations by the governor in council prohibiting or limiting the admission of persons by reason of "nationality, citizenship and occupation."

**Mr. Orlikow:** What is that for?

**Mr. Badanai:** That is in the regulations, not the act.

**Mr. Orlikow:** What is the reason for it?

**Mr. Badanai:** I shall come to that. In 1956 the regulations were revised, admission to Canada being determined on the basis of an applicant's citizenship, and his relationship to a Canadian citizen who was able and willing to sponsor him. The greatest preference was given to immigrants from Britain, France, the United States and the older members of the commonwealth, followed by immigrants from Canada's other traditional source countries in western Europe.

Provisions were made for the admission to Canadian residence of a broader range of close relatives from Europe and the Americas, and some countries of the Near East. Admissions from elsewhere in the world was limited to the immediate family, that is, the parents, husband, wife and unmarried children under 21 years of age of a Canadian citizen residing in Canada. Amendments were also made removing the necessity for the sponsor in Canada to become a Canadian citizen before his family could be admitted.

Again immigration regulations were completely changed, providing for the admission of any person on the basis of his education, training, skills or other special qualifications regardless of his race, citizenship, country of origin or country of residence. However, the basic sponsorship provisions for the admission of the relatives of Canadian residents from Europe, the Americas and the Near East were retained.

In the years from 1956 to 1962, when admissibility was regulated on the basis of citizenship, or on citizenship coupled with relationship to a Canadian resident, the colour of the applicant for admission was not a factor in determining his admissibility. Persons who were of other origins than the majority of the citizens of these countries were not excluded on those grounds. It is true, of course, that the most preferred countries for immigrant sources were predominantly European in the racial content of their

populations, but this was due to the fact that Canada, over the years, has endeavoured to select immigrants who were adaptable to Canadian life in terms of culture and political philosophy, as such persons finding familiar institutions in Canada feel more at home, and this assists in their re-establishment in the new life they find here.

The regulations introduced in recent years removed every possible suggestion that admissibility to Canada was governed, directly or indirectly, by the ethnic origin of intending settlers. Persons of all origins and nationalities are now admissible if, by reason of their education, training, skills, or other special qualifications they are able and likely to become successfully established in Canada. Canadian experience indicates that a substantial volume of immigration is highly desirable. Unfortunately, new population cannot be added in a hit or miss way without regard to their means of subsistence or their effect on Canadian life.

Technological change and the development of Canadian society to its present complex state require that, to be able to establish themselves successfully, new settlers must be economically competitive in terms of training, skills and personal qualities. While Canada has made every effort to sustain the movement of immigrants from countries having like economic, social and political backgrounds there is no reason why qualified people from other countries cannot integrate successfully into Canadian society, and the existing immigration regulations recognize this principle.

In the application of the criteria to determine an applicant's personal qualifications no rigid yardsticks have been set. I want to emphasize that. At the same time the educational standings, skill levels where applicable, and the professional qualifications of an individual must be related to Canadian experience and requirements. The department naturally seeks immigrants who have formal academic, educational or vocational training. Other factors also enter into the considerations, such as an applicant's knowledge of one of Canada's official languages, his financial resources, personal adaptability, and desire to succeed. In the end the question of whether an individual applicant has qualifications such as to justify approval becomes a matter of human judgment. Immigration officers strive to exercise this judgment on as sound a basis as possible, and to minimize the possibility of human error.