

Canadian racism exposed in "None is too Many"

by Geoff Martin

None is too many

Irving Abella & Harold Troper
Lester and Orpen Dennys, 1982
336 pages

After closing the back cover of *None is too many*, the reader is bound to wonder whether he/she should be enraged over the revelations within, or grateful the truth about Canada's anti-semitic immigration policies before, during, and after Hitler's Holocaust has finally reached the surface of popular non-fiction literature.

With the rising currents of anti-semitism in France, the United States, Toronto and elsewhere, it is fitting this book has been published. In it Irving Abella and Harold Troper analyze, with brilliance, what some would call Canada's "complicity" in Hitler's Holocaust in which at least 6 million European Jews were gassed and burned in now notorious places — Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and others.

Abella and Troper have documented the deliberate anti-semitic discrimination of the Immigration Branch under Frederick C. Blair, and of the Cabinet under Mr. Pragmatic, W.L. MacKenzie King.

I cannot say I am surprised at the gross callousness of the government of Canada in refusing entry of people into Canada simply because of their religion. Canada's now legendary treatment of the Japanese-Canadians during World War Two has shocked many. The surprising aspect, however, is the documentation, the detail, and the clarity which Abella and Troper have put into the book.

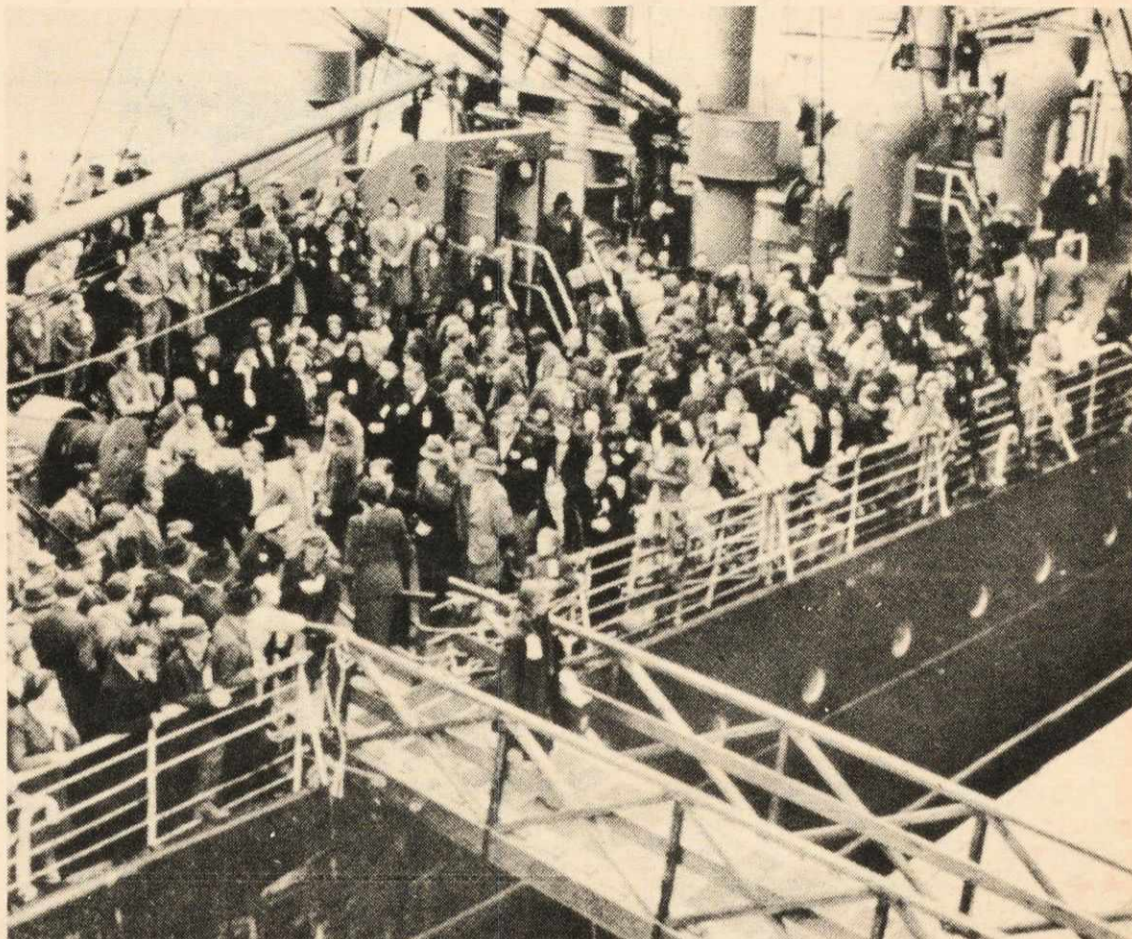
One of the reasons this book is so good is that it can teach us a lot about Canada. Peter Wiate once wrote that the people of Quebec

saw Mussolini as an admirable character, and the Premier of the day, the notorious Maurice Duplessis, read Hitler's autobiography *Mein Kampf* and said he "liked it." Abella and Troper manage to show us this side of Canada in the 1930's and 1940's.

Under the government of Mackenzie King from 1935 to 1947, the only way any Jew could get into Canada was by proving that he was a "legitimate farmer" with enough capital to set up a farm in Canada. For a Gentile, entrance to Canada during the same period was simple. The authors cite several cases in which Jews claimed to be Protestants and were admitted to Canada after being refused when they first applied as a Jew:

One of the immigration officers Landau's sister (in Canada) had contacted inferred that with a judicious distribution of money . . . the transfer of all of their funds to Canadian banks, the group might be allowed into Canada. One more bit of advice: They should also reapply as Christians. This they did at once, and within two months the entry visas arrived. Landau, Kohn Wilner and their families, along with those of several other wealthy Jews masquerading as Christians, managed to join the group and were soon on their way to their new home . . . Some would never see the inside of a synagogue again . . . True they has survived while so many perished — but only because they abandoned their faith."

One of the great myths of the Second World War which has



Canada's legacy of racist immigration policies still haunts us through the hundreds who died because we closed our gates. Have things changed?

comforted us since, was that we in the Free World did not know what was going on in Europe, otherwise we would have helped. The first acts of Official Nazi terror against the Jews started in 1933-34. By 1938, with the annexation of the Rhineland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, many thousand Jews were driven into Poland, France, Britain, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

Then on November 9, 1938, the worst Nazi program was carried out — officially sponsored by the Nazi government. Called *Kristallnacht* "because of the broken glass from Jewish homes and businesses littering the streets in every city, town and village in Germany and Austria. Countless synagogues, Jewish stores and homes were plundered and razed; man, women, and child-

ren were wrenched from their homes, beaten, and shot or dragged off to concentration camps." And this went on without any action from the west.

By now one incident — the "Voyage of the Damned" — is famous. Hundreds of desperate men and women and children were

continued page 19

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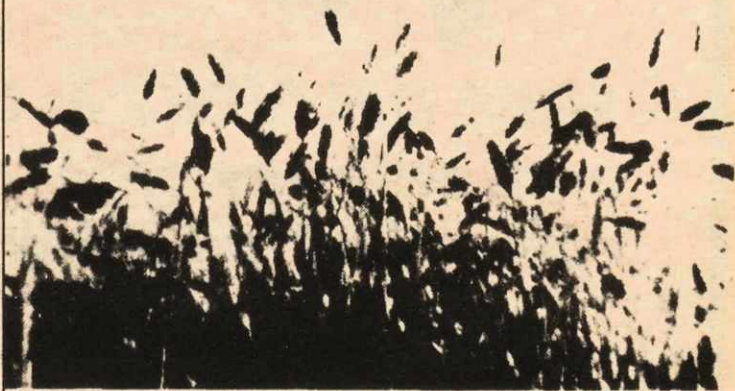
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