

Immigration

information service, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, referred in his address to one immigrant-owned firm in Canada that is employing more than 4,000 people, and noted that those employing 100 or more are far from unusual. Small businesses established by immigrants employing from one to 30 or 40 workers can be found in almost all parts of the country.

In these facts we find support for our submission that, given the factors I mentioned earlier—and we say it is the responsibility of the government to produce the climate in which these factors will prevail—statistical evidence convinces us that in the long run Canada can absorb more and not less people without any adverse effect on employment. In the long run, such a policy will increase opportunities for employment in Canada.

The second branch of our criticism of the government under this heading, that immigration policies are not in conformity with the needs and responsibilities of Canada, is the concern we feel because the government has neglected British immigration. We have referred to this subject before, and have made it clear then, as we do now, that we do not say the immigration policy should lay undue or unfair emphasis on any one country at the expense of immigration from others. I repeat that we feel the country as a whole should pay a very real tribute to the contribution made to Canada by the people who have come to us from whatever country of origin. But we do criticize the government for failure to put sufficient emphasis on or pay due attention to this potential source of most desirable immigrants. Our criticism of the government in this sphere is that they have under-emphasized British immigration rather than that they have over-emphasized any other at the expense of British immigration.

The figures in this respect are interesting. They show a change in the pattern. I am just going to place some of them on the record. Taking the years from 1950 to 1954 inclusive, the figures establish that British immigration has been on some occasions as low as one-sixth of the total immigration into Canada during a year. It does not average more than 25 per cent of the total immigrants into Canada in the post-war period. Others who will be taking part in this debate will be laying before the house some details of the government's shortcomings in this respect. I want to lay before the house the general picture.

I know that the government has sometimes said that they cannot obtain desirable immigrants from the United Kingdom. They plead in defence that it is not their fault; that they are not placing any obstacles in

the way, but just cannot obtain a sufficient number of desirable immigrants from the United Kingdom. When for instance we criticize the government for not taking advantage of the various assisted passage schemes which are available, they say sometimes that does not produce desirable immigrants. They say also, "After all, the assisted passage scheme we do have is not taken advantage of by United Kingdom immigrants to the same extent as it is by others, and that is not our fault." There are definite factors which make it more difficult for prospective immigrants from the United Kingdom to take advantage of that scheme. As we have said before the government is to be criticized for not taking action on those factors to make it easier for United Kingdom immigrants to take advantage of the schemes.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if the hon. gentleman would permit a question, purely to elicit information. I was not clear as to the assisted passage scheme to which he was referring. Was it the Canadian government loan scheme?

Mr. Fulton: There is the Canadian government loan scheme which, as I was just saying, for a number of reasons, is not as readily available or as attractive to prospective immigrants from the United Kingdom as it is to immigrants from elsewhere. Modifications in the scheme would remedy that situation. There is also the commonwealth scheme for assisted emigration from the United Kingdom, to which this government has refused to become a party although the commonwealth of Australia is taking full advantage of that scheme.

When discussing this matter with the minister and others on previous occasions, their answer has been that if we go out to attract immigrants from the United Kingdom in the same way as we try to attract immigrants from other countries we will not get desirable immigrants. This argument is entirely refuted by the experience of Australia. I have here some figures on the volume of British immigration into Australia and New Zealand over the past few years. From 1946 to 1953 inclusive, there were 390,623 immigrants into Australia from the United Kingdom. There was a peak of 73,586 in the year 1951, and that compares with the peak of 46,791 coming to Canada in the year 1953. In the period 1947 to 1953 inclusive there were 60,782 United Kingdom immigrants into New Zealand. It is interesting to note when this government says that desirable immigrants from the United Kingdom are not available, that in the period