

to the absorptive capacity of the country.

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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. Some emigration from Canada will inevitably occur. Part of it will be made up of Canadians going elsewhere to live, and part of it will be made up of immigrants who have decided, for one reason or another, to leave again after having come here. The problem is to determine what annual inflow of immigrants, when reduced by a normal amount of emigration, will leave behind that increase in our population which we can effectively absorb in any year. In the period from 1921 to 1931 we took in approximately 120,000 immigrants a year on the average, but we lost a very large number of persons by emigration. It seems clear that we were exceeding our annual absorptive capacity at that time. Because of that, Canada probably suffered through the loss of Canadians, who were, in a sense, "pushed out" and who would otherwise not have left. However, in 1921,



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