

8,350. They have also provided for the employment of 8,947 Canadians and newcomers.

A striking feature is the fact that more than half of these enterprises were established in 1958. In the past year alone immigrants established 1,324 small businesses of various kinds, 1,303 by purchase and 21 by rental.

Why was 1958 such a banner year for the establishment of immigrant enterprises? The reason is partly financial. Many of these operators lacked both capital and Canadian business experience and had to work for some years to acquire sufficient funds and knowledge before striking out on their own. Quite likely also, it was the optimistic reports of earlier immigrants which induced other small businessmen to establish firms in Canada.

And what are these enterprises and where are they? They were established in eight of the ten provinces. The majority, 805, were established in Ontario. British Columbia was second with 222, and Quebec third with 153. Nova Scotia received seven, New Brunswick two, Manitoba 40, Saskatchewan 22, and Alberta, 73.

These concerns were of various types. As an example of their diversity, in Ontario and Quebec there were established, last year, 27 firms dealing in meat products, 40 in bakery products, 43 groceries and delicatessens, 154 construction firms, 18 plants manufacturing wood products and 22 dealing in metal products; 81 firms were engaged in automobile repairs, sales and service, 32 in the manufacture of leather goods, knitted goods and paper products and 13 in publishing, printing and lithography.

Twenty-four firms came under the heading of truck gardening and florist shops and 84 were retail outlets for departmental store items. These were in addition to 19 commercial concerns dealing in dairy and feed mill products, fishing, etc., 22 tailoring establishments and 63 barber shops and beauty salons. There were established, as well, 127 service establishments, 24 radio-television sales and service outlets, and six tourist accommodation centres.

Nor was the field of finance overlooked, since 31 insurance, real estate, import-export and wholesale firms were established in 1958.

These figures lend support to the findings of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects. It was the opinion of the Gordon Commission "that immigrants have made a decided contribution to the scale of economic development in Canada". The report added: "This is true in aggregate terms because of the addition that immigrants have made to the available labour supply."