

Most of these people have been on British soil since 1940, and have become fully adjusted to Anglo-Saxon ways of life. Our own experience in Canada with the small group of Polish refugees admitted to Canada during the war, were most encouraging. The matter was discussed before this Committee last year. The Canadian Polish Congress thus submits that any applicant for immigration from this group should find the same consideration as other immigrants coming from the British Isles.

3. Displaced persons.—According to the UNRRA census made last fall in all Allied occupation zones of Germany, except the Russian zone, there are 850 thousand displaced persons who could not or would not go back to their places of origin. The reason is that so many of them come from the countries now included into Soviet Russia or dominated by Soviet Russia. They fear, with good reason, liquidation or forced labour upon their return to their places of origin. Almost half of these displaced persons are Poles. Their plight has been discussed repeatedly before this Committee, and we wish to express our appreciation for the statements made by such eminent experts as Lieut.-Col. Arthur J. Hicks, Miss Constance Hayward and the Reverend Ian MacKay. We heartily endorse the views expressed by the latter on the 24th day of April, 1947, when he said that the displaced persons in the area which was surveyed were people of almost every walk of life, and that there is an unprecedented opportunity to secure for our country a considerable number of people of exactly the type most needed, namely experienced farmers, skilled artisans, and industrial workers skilled in trades which are not yet properly and fully developed in this country, professional men, and intellectuals of high standing.

We should like to emphasize again that these displaced persons have undergone, and are still undergoing, so great hardships that they are ready to accept almost any kind of work and under any conditions, if only they would be given a chance to start life afresh. May we emphasize that we do not hold to the principle that the purpose of immigration is to secure cheap labour, or to depress present standards of living. There are many types of work in Canada which should be done and for which native labour cannot be found. We are convinced that the hard and exacting life in a lumber camp, a northern mining town, or on a farm which has perhaps been abandoned by its Canadian owner, will appear a paradise on earth to the majority of displaced persons, as compared with their present life—if life it can be called.

With the projected admission of five thousand displaced persons, again only a small beginning has been made considering their staggering numbers and the full extent of the problem which demands almost immediate solution.

4. The fourth group is that of Polish refugees not classified as "Displaced Persons".—The figure of 400 thousand Poles described as "displaced persons" does not however comprise the total number of Poles within the British, French, and American zones of occupation who resist and fear repatriation. There is a considerable number of those Polish soldiers and deportees who were taken during the September 1939 campaign. This also applies to Balts, Ukrainians, and other people from the Russian dominated areas, who escaped their Communist dominated countries after the deadline established for the registration of D.P's. As late as July 1946, 30 thousand refugees from Eastern Europe arrived in one single month in the American zone alone, and 67 thousand others, attempting to enter during this period, were turned back by military guards at the demarcation line. So that the exodus from the eastern portion is still going on.

These people are in a particularly difficult position, since they do not receive any help from anybody. They are living under the constant threat of forced repatriation. Of course caution is necessary in dealing with these people because of the possibility of ideological infiltration; they have not been screened by UNRRA or by the military occupational authorities; even here in Canada we have had an excellent occasion to learn about these techniques of infiltration.