

The Overseas Service functions very much along the same lines as its counterpart in Canada. Its various offices abroad come under a Superintendent located in London, England, who reports to the Commissioner-in-Charge of the Overseas Service in Ottawa.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, Canadian Immigration staffs, including medical examiners, were located in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast. The three last mentioned offices were closed at the outbreak of war. The Glasgow office is again in operation, and the other two will be re-opened as soon as suitable accommodation can be secured. Experience has shown that the above locations were the most desirable in order to ensure ready access to Canadian Immigration facilities for prospective British immigrants. Similarly, in order to facilitate compliance with Immigration medical requirements, a roster of some 500 approved British medical practitioners has made it possible for British Immigrants to undergo medical examination within a short distance of their place of residence.

For the past twenty-five years, a system of preliminary examination of immigrants from Continental Europe has been in effect. This preliminary examination is intended to establish the admissibility of persons wishing to settle in Canada before they embark, in order to avoid the hardship that would ensue from rejection at the Canadian port of entry and subsequent deportation. Before the war, these examinations were conducted at Paris, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg and Gdynia. Rigid frontier controls in Europe at the present time make it impossible for a large percentage of intending immigrants to proceed freely to these points. To meet this difficulty, examination facilities are provided at a number of other centres. At present regular Immigration offices are in operation at Paris, Brussels, and The Hague, and provisions exist for the examination of immigrants at Canadian Missions in Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Warsaw, Moscow, Prague, Geneva, Lisbon, and Athens. Immigration facilities are now available in Italy. The problem in occupied territories, namely Germany and Austria, is a particularly difficult one. The prospective immigrants to be examined are displaced persons and refugees, a large number of whom are in camps scattered all over the occupied territories and unable to proceed to examination points. By arrangement with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, since replaced by the International Refugee Organization, itinerant immigration teams have been operating in Germany and Austria since March, 1947. Each team consists of an Immigration Inspector, a Medical Officer, and a Security Officer, and, as required, of an officer of the Department of Labour. The I.R.O. is responsible for the locating, assembling, and preliminary medical examination of prospective immigrants who come within the admissible classes, and for groups of workers in approved occupational categories. Applications by industrial firms for workers from ~~amongst~~ displaced persons in Europe are examined in Ottawa by an Inter-Departmental Committee composed of representatives of the Immigration Branch and of the Department of Labour who make recommendations as to the admission of stated numbers in the light of current circumstances. The Immigration Teams visit the camps where the prospective immigrants are assembled and by the examination of each applicant presented by I.R.O., establish his or her admissibility to Canada. There are also displaced persons and refugees in occupied territory who do not come within the mandate of the International Refugee Organization, but who are admissible under existing regulations to join first degree relatives in Canada. Such intending immigrants are located and presented for examination by the representatives of two Canadian voluntary organizations, the Canadian Christian Council for the Resettlement of Refugees and the Canadian Ukrainian Committee. Approved immigrants go forward to Canada as steamship accommodation becomes available.

The procedure described, dictated by the unprecedented conditions existing in Germany and Austria, was a new departure in so far as immigration inspection was concerned. As it was to be expected,