

Immigration

three years, when there has been a tendency to increased unemployment in the winter months, the stream of immigration has very definitely declined. That necessity we do accept. We accept seasonal co-ordination and planning of immigration but what we do not accept is the general argument that immigration in the over-all picture lessens opportunities for employment. Our belief is that a planned, vigorous policy of selective immigration to bring in more people is in keeping with the best interests of all sections of our country and of our people. We believe that the government's present pessimistic policy of reduction, this planning for a little Canada, is to be strongly condemned.

We also believe that immigration policies and activities, in addition to taking account of seasonal trends as I have already said, must be co-ordinated and go hand in hand with sensible fiscal and economic policies which will create a climate for expansion and thus create continued and increasing opportunities for Canadians now here and for those who come in the future. There again the government of course is open to the strongest of criticism because its fiscal and economic policies seem designed not so much to promote increasing opportunities for Canadians in Canada as to promote increasing opportunities for those in other countries to manufacture and process our raw materials. But given the factors I have mentioned in a sensible, vigorous and co-ordinated immigration policy—and we say the government is to be condemned for failing to bring about these factors—given these things, the best statistical evidence available convinces us that Canada can absorb more and not less people without any adverse effect on employment, and that in fact such a policy will increase opportunities for employment in the long run. But we emphasize again that plans must be laid now with respect to co-ordinated policies of economic development, processing of natural resources and housing so that we will be prepared for the situation and will be able to absorb these people without hardship when they are brought to our country.

In support of the statements I have just made I should like to place on the record a summary of some research that has been done recently into the question of the relationship between immigration and employment and into the question of the extent to which immigration may in fact have the effect of increasing opportunities for employment rather than the opposite.

In a radio broadcast made in August, 1954, the chief of information services of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration said that the approximately 500,000 working

immigrants who had arrived in Canada since the end of the war had a total annual buying power somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1 billion. This is a permanent annual increase in consumer purchasing power of about \$2,000 per immigrant worker. If we assume that half of the 211,220 immigrants who entered Canada between April 1, 1951, and March 31, 1952, were workers, the assumption that half of them were workers being based on the proportion of workers brought in in 1954, and that each of them added \$2,000 in purchasing power annually through the income that he earned and spent to meet the needs of his family, then the question arises, what contribution did this represent to the total national increase in consumer spending and saving during that year?

The answer to that question will give some idea of the relative importance of immigrant consumption to the growth of consumption in the country as a whole. These 105,610 workers at \$2,000 each would add a total of \$211,220,000 of purchasing power in that year. The total of personal purchases of goods and services, plus personal savings, for the calendar year 1952 was \$14 billion, and \$1.5 billion of savings, or a total of \$15,753 million. The increase in 1952 over the previous year was \$15,753 million less \$14,633 million for the previous year, or an increase in consumer purchasing plus savings of \$1,070 million. Expressed as a percentage of this total increase, the total income spent and saved by immigrants for that year amounted to about 20 per cent. This is a sizeable contribution in one year to the growth of Canadian consumer spending.

We find further interesting figures, based in part on the statement made by the director of information of the department, to the effect that on arriving in this country many of the immigrants in recent years have brought sizeable amounts of cash with them. We should not think of immigrants only as people who come here without a cent in their pockets. Between January 1946 and December 1953, immigrants brought in an estimated total in cash of \$415 million, or an average of approximately \$425 per immigrant. In 1953 alone, the total is reported to have been \$75 million or, in round figures, about \$450 per immigrant.

While much of this cash may have been used for consumption immediately on arrival, immigrants have in one way or another contributed very largely to the investment in Canadian industry, frequently establishing entirely new enterprises. Between 1949 and 1954, in Ontario alone, 350 new firms were established by immigrants. The chief of the

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