

Transportation

Transportation facilities have been better than was expected. Ships from the British Isles to Canada provide four times as much space as there was last year. The Dominion Government has recently entered an agreement with T.C.A. to provide 10,000 seats by air by the end of March, 1949, at a flat rate of £72. I.R.O. arranges transportation and displaced persons and the Beaverbrae (converted German prize ship) carries about 770 relatives once every three or four weeks.

Inspection

During the year, the Immigration Branch set up an office in Heidelberg as headquarters for work in the occupied territories. The number of immigration teams working in these areas has been increased from six to eight, and a ninth peripatetic team will visit other countries to make examination of applicants. Probably the team will first visit Sweden to investigate cases of Estonian and other Baltic refugees.

An immigration office has been opened in Rome. By P.C. 4850, the people of Finland, Italy, Hungary and Roumania are, for purposes of immigration, no longer considered enemy aliens.

Immigration Act—Deportation

The Immigration Act has been amended from time to time, but there has been no basic change since it was passed in 1910. A discussion on deportation procedure showed that the Act no longer conforms to the scientific advances made in the treatment of nervous diseases and tuberculosis.

A person, other than a Canadian citizen or a person having Canadian domicile, may be deported if he entered Canada illegally, or if he has been an inmate of a jail, penitentiary or of a mental institution. Cases were cited of people who after having passed medical examination for immigration to Canada suffered temporary mental or nervous trouble. Upon recovery, they are subject to deportation. Although the Minister may defer action, and frequently does on humanitarian grounds if there is no question of the person becoming a public charge, the person can never secure permanent residence and become a citizen. There have been cases of refugees where worry and uncertainty have caused relapses.

It was suggested that the Committee should recommend a study of the Act, and that special attention be given to the question of whether the power of the Minister on appeals should be increased, and whether the Act should be amended to provide for application for reconsideration of a deportation order, after a lapse of five or ten years.

Chinese

A recommendation for repeal of P.C. 2115 was requested so that married men of Chinese descent, resident in Canada, may be allowed to bring their wives and children to this country. Canadian residents of European, South American or United States origin can bring their families, but people of Asiatic race must be citizens to enjoy the same privilege. The discrimination is contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and is in accordance with the Prime Minister's stated objective (Jan. 27/47) of removal of all discrimination against the Chinese on account of race. Separation of families cannot be justified on principles of religion and social welfare. It was moved by the Honourable Senator Murdock, seconded by the Honourable Senator Bouchard, and passed unanimously: "That the request placed before us be adopted".