

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

ship and immigration; and to the extent that there is consultation, co-operation and understanding between the two departments with respect to employment, number of immigrants, class of immigrants and where they should be placed, to the extent that these two departments are working together and co-operating, then to that extent will the government's policy be in line with what the requirements of the country are and in the right spots.

Has post-war immigration caused unemployment? From 1946 to 1951 inclusive we brought in about 625,000 immigrants. Total emigration in the same years was about 207,000. That many left the country. But many of these people entering the country do not come into the labour force at all. Total adult immigrants, less married women, numbered about 331,000, and total adult emigrants, less married women, about 112,000. Therefore net immigration into the labour forces in the whole six years was only about 219,000, and many of these people do not come into the labour market.

In the five years from 1946 to 1950 about 46 per cent of the male immigrants were classified as agricultural or trading. Most of these were probably farmers or small merchants. In 1951, the peak year for post-war immigration, net adult immigrants, less married women, came to about 85,700, and about 28 per cent of the immigrant workers were farming class, trading or professional. In the first six months of 1952 almost 31 per cent were so classified. As our total civilian labour force now runs to about 5,200,000, and our total of wage and salary earners plus unemployed to about 3,900,000, it is evident that immigrant workers form only a very small proportion of the labour supply.

This of course does not dispose of the question. If the cup is already full, a few drops will make it overflow. But until last fall, when unemployment started rising markedly over the year before, there was seldom any suggestion that immigration was responsible for unemployment. In Ontario, which got about half the immigrants for the years 1946 to 1950, unemployment was usually low enough that nobody bothered. Quebec had much heavier unemployment, but got only about 17 per cent of the immigrants. The Atlantic provinces, which had the heaviest unemployment of all, got only 5 per cent of the immigrants. In the fall of 1951 unemployment in Ontario, though still probably much lighter in proportion to total number of workers than in any other region, began to show spectacular increases over the year before. By April, 1952, it was running close to double. In Quebec the increases were less spectacular and came later, but they

started from a much higher level. Both provinces also showed big increases in a short time.

All you can deal with are the 1951 and 1952 figures because the figures are not available up to date. I think the figures that I am using show pretty well the trend in employment, and I think they dispose of the arguments that immigration from 1946 to 1951 was responsible for great unemployment. It certainly was not. The figures do not show that, although there is a marked trend in the road to unemployment at the present time.

In the nine months from October, 1951 to June, 1952 the number of immigrants to Ontario was more than 50 per cent higher than in 1950-1951. Immigration to Quebec more than doubled. Immigration to British Columbia rose nearly 80 per cent. At the beginning of July, 1952, unemployment was higher than in July, 1951 in every single region, almost 58 per cent higher in Quebec, almost 43 per cent in British Columbia, almost 38 per cent in Ontario, 21 per cent in the Atlantic region and 15 per cent on the prairies. It does not follow that this was the result of immigration. Only a detailed study of where the immigrants went and into what industries and what job would tell us that.

But it certainly looks on the face of it as if the last quarter of 1951 and the first half of 1952 would have been a good time to ease up on immigration. Instead, the government seems to have done just the opposite. The government might reply that unemployment will soon give way to shortages and then we will need the extra workers in a hurry. But even the *Financial Post* of July 5 said there would probably be more unemployment next winter than in the winter before. It had this to say:

Demand is not nearly as buoyant as had been expected . . . It seems evident now that the defence program is getting to the point of levelling off, so far as labour demand is concerned. There may be an increasing demand for skilled workers but the over-all picture will remain about the same.

Yet in the first six months of 1952 immigration of unskilled and semi-skilled workers was about 35 per cent higher than in the first six months of the year before, a slightly higher percentage increase than for skilled workers. This needs explaining, to say the least. In a discussion last evening on the matter of education I pointed out that you can go to the employment offices across the country and find large queues of unskilled workers, and at the same time the bulletin boards in the employment offices will show that there is quite a demand for skilled workers, mechanics, toolmakers and so forth.