

The Settlement Division of my Department, with its regional and local offices across Canada, keeps its fingers on the pulses of our economy and is well equipped to handle enquiries from persons who want to become self-employed in manufacturing, the service trades or in agriculture.

In the past year, 1,750 immigrants have established small businesses of their own. Of these 137 were American citizens. Four-fifths settled in Ontario or British Columbia.

In 1959, 1,061 newcomers to Canada bought farms. Of these 96 were U.S. citizens, 51 of whom chose British Columbia, our Pacific province; and 25 settled in Ontario.

Prospective farm and business owners from the United States have a built-in advantage, living as they do so close to Canada. Whereas most European immigrants prefer to work for a few years in Canada before launching their own businesses in order to learn the language, acclimatize culturally or observe Canadian methods, Americans come to Canada with the idea of establishing themselves immediately. It is so simple, especially for people living near the border, to drive through parts of Canada and to search out opportunities in business and agriculture before making any formal move to emigrate.

Canada's population is growing rapidly and this growth is creating the need for more goods and services. Our population expansion is supporting new industries, manufacturing goods such as ceramics, camera lenses, fine furniture or wrought ironware which were formerly imported.

For a brief look at this growth potential let me take you on a quick trip across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Atlantic provinces may seem to lag in economic development, but such appearance is deceptive and created by comparing these provinces with the explosive growth of the central provinces. There are new mineral and power developments, there are forests and fisheries and secondary manufacturing and a growth in specialized farming, especially in apples and chickens.

Canada's largest province, Quebec, is usually called "French Canada". Since the last war there has been a rapid shifting of emphasis from the traditional rural and village community life towards industrialization and the exploitation of water power and natural resources in which this province abounds. The power of its turbulent rivers is being harnessed; the rich resources of its hinterland are being mined for the markets. Quebec supplies one-half of Canada's major export - pulp and paper. It smelts and refines many non-ferrous metals; digs iron ore from its northern wilderness for shipment to American steel plants; and produces a large part of the textiles for the Canadian market.

Ontario is our second largest province, stretching one thousand miles from east to west, one thousand fifty miles from north to south. You can pick peaches and grow tobacco in its southern belt and hunt polar bears in its northland. Its six million people produce one-half of Canada's industrial output. Its factory belt stretching from Oshawa through Toronto to Hamilton is similar to Chicagoland. Yet many of its business opportunities, especially for the small entrepreneur, lie in its smaller cities and towns. Canadians, for instance, have always regarded Kingston as a quiet university city immersed in scholarship, cut off from the bustle of everyday economic life. Yet in the past 10 years this old city, built on the site of Fort Frontenac near the famous Thousand Islands vacation area, has doubled its population and attracted many industrial plants.