

Immigration

Canada is not the melting pot that the neighbouring United States is frequently said to be. It has been called, more correctly, a mosaic. Within the national community the Anglo-French relationship has established a pattern which is being followed by the smaller ethnic groups. Thus Canada resembles a patchwork; the components contributing to the whole while at the same time retaining some of their European characteristics.

Germans today make up the third largest ethnic group in Canada and are followed by Ukrainians, Scandinavians, Dutch and Poles. At the

1) Immigrants crowd the deck of this vessel as it arrives in Canada

2) Canada is a church-going country in which full religious freedom is enjoyed



time of the 1951 census, these five groups made up fourteen per cent of the total population. Native Indians and Eskimos make up only about one per cent.

Since the Second World War a new wave of immigration has added further variety to the Canadian mosaic; in the years 1945 to 1957, almost 1,700,000 people from more than forty countries settled in Canada. Of these the largest numbers came from the British Isles. Other important countries of origin, in descending numerical order, are Germany, Italy, and The Netherlands. Many thousand of Hungarians have found refuge in Canada.

It is symbolic of the changing economy that the goal of these new Canadians is no longer the agricultural lands of the Prairies as it was for earlier waves of immigrants. More than half of the new arrivals have settled in industrial Ontario.

Religion

The diversity in national origin is paralleled by a similar diversity in religion. Forty-three per cent of the people are Roman Catholics, and French Canadians make up almost three quarters of this number. The largest Protestant denomination is the United Church, a union of Methodists, Congregationalists and some Presbyterians; the next largest is the Anglican. Presbyterians, Baptists and Lutherans and members of the Jewish faith rank next in numbers. Other faiths flourish, including Greek and Ukrainian Orthodox, Mormon, Pentecostal, Christian Scientist and Jehovah's Witnesses. In addition there are several secluded sects such as the Doukhobors, Hutterites and Amish, who fled to Canada from religious persecution and are settled in tightly-knit communities across the land.

Canada is a church-going country and still retains a good deal of its nineteenth century puritanism. Sunday is a quiet day, with most places of business and entertainment closed.

