



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 18 No. 6

February 6, 1963

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## CANADA — A NATION OF IMMIGRANT PEOPLES

The following is a partial text of an address by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. R.A. Bell, to the Jewish Immigrant Services of Canada in Toronto on January 20:

"...Canada has been built and sustained by the strength of immigrant peoples. Today, some 350 years after the first European adventurers settled on our shores, approximately one-sixth of our population was born in some other land. Indeed, in 1961 Canada had a slightly larger proportion than in 1951 of foreign-born residents — a reflection of the high level of immigration during the decade.

### DESTINY CALLS FOR MORE PEOPLE

"Make no mistake, this country needs a larger population to achieve its full national potential. Our destiny cannot be fulfilled with only 18.7 million people. We simply do not have the population to develop the rich and vast resources of what is territorially one of the giant nations of the world. I would not hazard a guess as to what number of people is the balanced figure for our optimum national development, but we have ample room to grow in — that is certain! The question to be decided is not *whether* our population should grow — but at what pace it should grow.

"Our Canadian birth rate of 27 per thousand of population is one of the highest of the developed nations of the world. But the historic fact is that the normal processes of population growth, taken by themselves, are not enough. Yes, Canada must

have a much larger population and immigration must be a major factor in that population growth.

### AN EXPANSIONIST POLICY

"I have described myself as an expansionist in immigration policy. That phrase I repeat. I am not one of those timorous souls who believe that a balanced intake of well-selected immigrants is an impediment to economic growth in Canada. On the contrary, I believe that the introduction into Canada of properly selected and prepared immigrants provides a positive, direct and immediate stimulus to the economic growth of the country.

"New immigrants have made and will continue to make a vital contribution to our economic development, to our expansion. As consumers, they increase the demand for domestically-produced goods and this additional demand creates new employment opportunities, new income, further demand throughout the country. And the impetus to the expansion of our domestic consumer market encourages the development of more efficient units of production, the establishment of newer and more diversified industrial enterprises and the reduction of our dependence upon the vagaries and uncertainties of external trade.

"All this is quite apart from the new capital, the new assets brought to Canada by those who settle on hundreds of farms, by those who establish new industries. In 1962, over \$100 million in

(Over)