

We shall now deal with these four groups separately and in greater detail:

1. War Veterans.—As to the members of the Polish Forces in Great Britain, the Canadian Polish Congress has on the 25th day of June, 1946, submitted to your Committee in detail the number of Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen who were demobilized, their educational attainments and their respective vocations prior to military service. At the conclusion of hostilities, there were about 220 thousand of them who would not or could not return to their homeland for reasons well known to you. Many of them have been ready to make their homes in Canada. But the indecision of our Government and the reluctance to remove the restrictions on immigration caused some of them to return to Poland and the remainder are undergoing training for civilian life in various camps and schools established for them by the British Ministry of Labour. About 60 per cent of them are farmers by training, over 30 per cent are skilled in the mechanical arts, and the rest represent the educational and professional classes.

Is it their fault that they have no country to set them up in civilian life as Canada does for her boys? When they were fighting on the most exposed sectors of the front near Arnhem in Holland and Bologna in Italy, Mr. Churchill put his signature to the Yalta agreement well knowing that it meant the loss of real freedom and liberty in Poland. He then announced that these boys would receive British citizenship and be allowed to settle in any part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. We Canadians of Polish descent have the right to believe that the pronouncement of Mr. Churchill was made with the approval of our Government, as we have heard nothing to the contrary. We believe that this promise should be fulfilled on moral grounds alone because fulfillment of commitments has always been a British tradition. We submit also that on the basis of national self-interest, these men should be admitted to Canada.

There is another point to which we would like to draw your attention. The majority of these Polish veterans are single. It is not unreasonable to assume that they will get married as soon as they have become established. Now it is well known that about 50 thousand of our own boys have married outside of the country and have returned with their foreign brides. In view of this and of the casualties suffered during the war, an estimated 6 per cent to 10 per cent of Canadian girls in the marriageable age group would be unable to find a partner in Canada. This is an important problem which deserves full attention when immigration policies are being discussed.

So far, Canada has taken four thousand Polish veterans for farm work, but we are informed that there are at least 57 thousand more who wish to be re-established in civilian life in Canada. All of them are entitled to service gratuities payable by the British Government, and transportation expenses to any part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. In addition they possess personal savings. We have reliable information that among them there are at least 2,000 who have between 4,000 to 10,000 dollars of savings with which they desire to acquire land and equipment to establish themselves on Canadian farms. Moreover, they have as much moral right as our own boys to become rehabilitated. The quota of four thousand, we trust, is only a beginning.

2. Polish Refugees in Great Britain.—This is a rather small group of specialized workers and professional men, of which only a few would like to settle in Canada since the majority of them is already either well-established in the United Kingdom or have already attractive propositions from other parts of the Commonwealth and South America. There are, however, some who could be used to better advantage in this country than in any other part of the Empire. For instance, among the 1,734 engineers and scientists in that group, there are some 171 experts in forestry, especially in reforestation, who could probably be much better used here than in England or Scotland. Many of these people feel that they could better adjust themselves to the economic and climatic conditions in this country than anywhere else, because of the similarity of climate.