

## BRITISH IMMIGRANTS SET PACE

An increase of nearly 55,000 in total immigration during 1956 over the figure for 1955--164,857 as against--109,946--was spear-headed by a marked rise in numbers of immigrants of British origin from overseas. The total of 51,319 British immigrants surpassed by more than 21,000 the figure of 30,150 recorded for the year 1955. English immigrants totalled 32,389, up nearly 13,000, Irish 6,926, more than double the total for the previous year, and Scottish were up more than 4,000 to a total of 10,939.

Sizeable increases were also recorded for newcomers of other ethnic origins. Germans, for example, totalled 26,457, an increase of 8,735 over the numbers who entered Canada for permanent residence during 1955, and Italian immigrants, totalling 29,806, exceeded the 1955 total by 9,000.

**NEW APPOINTMENTS:** Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced the following appointments and transfers in the Canadian Diplomatic Service:

Mr. Chester Ronning, at present Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Minister to Iceland, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Escott Reid as High Commissioner for Canada in India, effective in May. Mr. Escott Reid's next appointment will be announced later.

Mr. Frederick Bull, Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce, has been appointed as Canadian Ambassador to Japan, to succeed the Hon. Justice T.C. Davis, who is retiring from the public service. Mr. Davis was appointed High Commissioner to Australia in 1942; he also served as Ambassador to China, to the Federal Republic of Germany, and to Japan. Mr. Bull will take up his new duties during the summer.

Mr. D.V. Lapan, who has been on loan from the Department to fill the position of Secretary and Director of Research of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, has been appointed an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He will assume his new duties after having completed his assignment with the Commission.

Mr. T.L. Carter, who has been serving with the Department in Ottawa as Head of the American Division, has been named Canadian Commissioner to the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam. He will succeed Mr. B.M. Williams. Mr. Carter will take up his appointment in March.

Miss Margaret Meacher has been appointed Charge d'Affaires in Tel Aviv, Israel, to succeed Mr. G.P. Kidd. Miss Meacher, who until recently served as Counsellor on the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London, will assume her duties in April.

Of the 164,857 newcomers who entered Canada during 1956, more than 91,000 were destined to the labour force. Of these, 29,264 went to jobs in manufacturing, mechanical, and construction classifications, 12,482 were labourers, and more than 9,000 had a background of professional training and experience. Dependents totalled 73,818, including 38,461 children.

More than half the immigrants--90,662 settled in the Province of Ontario, with Quebec receiving 31,396, British Columbia 17,812, and the other provinces accepting less sizeable groups.

Of interest in the fact that of the 164,857 immigrants, slightly fewer than 21,000 were over 40 years of age on arrival, and that no less than 63,511 were in the 20-29 age bracket.

**HMC SKEENA:** Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Skeena, first of Canada's new destroyer escorts to go into service on the west coast, will be commissioned at Burrard Dry Dock Co., Ltd., North Vancouver, on March 30.

The Skeena will be the fifth of the modern anti-submarine vessels to be accepted by the Royal Canadian Navy. Four others already are in service on the east coast. They are HMC Ships St. Laurent, Assiniboine, Ottawa and Saguenay, forming the Third Canadian Escort Squadron based at Halifax. The St. Laurent was commissioned in the fall of 1955 while the other three warships were commissioned during 1956.

The Skeena is similar to her predecessors and is all-Canadian in design and concept. She has a streamlined hull and extensive use has been made of aluminum in her superstructure which will be all-welded for the first time in these new ships.

Anti-submarine weapons are the Skeena's principal armament and include two triple-mortar mountings capable of firing high explosive projectiles with great accuracy in any direction. The ship will also carry homing torpedoes.

Other weapons include two twin 3-inch 50 calibre radar-controlled guns and two 40-mm anti-aircraft Bofors.

The new Skeena will be the second of her name to serve in the RCN. The original Skeena was commissioned in the United Kingdom in 1931 as one of the first two destroyers ever built specifically for Canada.

The first Skeena served through most of the Second World War on North Atlantic convoy duties and in European invasion operations.

Her long action-filled career came to a close when, caught in the grip of a North Atlantic gale, she was driven ashore on the Icelandic island of Videy during the early hours of October 25, 1944.