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NEW CITIZENS FOR CANADA

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The responsibility for all Immigration matters under the provisions of the Immigration Act rests upon the Minister of Mines and Resources. The Immigration Branch, one of five branches comprising the Department of Mines and Resources, administers this Act.

While Immigration from overseas was controlled by legislation as early as 1874, it was not until 1906 that inspectional staffs were stationed along the Canadian-United States border. In substance, the Immigration Act currently in force was first enacted in 1910. It has been amended from time to time in the light of changing conditions and administrative experience. Broadly speaking, the Immigration Act is divided into two parts: the first provides for the administrative machinery, sets out the duties of Immigration officers, and defines the procedure applicable to persons seeking entry to Canada and to those subject to deportation; it also defines the classes of persons whose admission is prohibited, the responsibility of transportation companies, and provides penalties for violations of the Act. The second part deals with the selection of immigrants and the control of their movement. The Immigration Act is so designed as to make it possible to cope with changing conditions without delay by enabling the Governor General in Council to amend or repeal existing regulations within the limitations of the Act.

STRUCTURE OF THE IMMIGRATION BRANCH

The headquarters of the Immigration Branch are at Ottawa. The Director of Immigration is responsible for the administration of the Act to the Deputy Minister and the Minister. To ensure efficient administration and effective supervision, the field staffs in Canada and overseas operate as two units, each under the direction of a Commissioner. The Canadian Field Service is made up of four Immigration districts, Atlantic, Eastern, Western, and Pacific. Each district is under the direction of a Superintendent. There are 253 ports of entry along the Canadian-United States border and on the Atlantic and Pacific seabords. The number of officers at ports of entry varies from two or three at small ocean or boundary ports to fifty or more at larger ports where traffic entering Canada by rail, highway and air is extremely heavy. The admissibility of every person who enters Canada is established by an Immigration Officer at one of these ports. The number of individual examinations last year totalled over 34,000,000. The Canadian Field Service also includes inland offices located at strategic points throughout the country whose staffs investigate applications for the admission of immigrants and conduct deportation proceedings.

The Overseas Service functions very much along the same lines as its counterpart in Canada. Its various offices abroad come under a Superintendent located in London, England, who reports to the Commissioner-in-Charge of the Overseas Service in Ottawa.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, Canadian Immigration staffs, including medical examiners, were located in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast. The three last mentioned offices were closed at the outbreak of war. The Glasgow office is again in operation, and the other two will be re-opened as soon as suitable accommodation can be secured. Experience has shown that the above locations were the most desirable in order to ensure ready access to Canadian Immigration facilities for prospective British immigrants. Similarly, in order to facilitate compliance with Immigration medical requirements, a roster of some 500 approved British medical practitioners has made it possible for British Immigrants to undergo medical examination within a short distance of their place of residence.

For the past twenty-five years, a system of preliminary examination of immigrants from Continental Europe has been in effect. This preliminary examination is intended to establish the admissibility of persons wishing to settle in Canada before they embark, in order to avoid the hardship that would ensue from rejection at the Canadian port of entry and subsequent deportation. Before the war, these examinations were conducted at Paris, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg and Gdynia. Rigid frontier controls in Europe at the present time make it impossible for a large percentage of intending immigrants to proceed freely to these points. To meet this difficulty, examination facilities are provided at a number of other centres. At present regular Immigration offices are in operation at Paris, Brussels, and The Hague, and provisions exist for the examination of immigrants at Canadian Missions in Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Warsaw, Moscow, Prague, Geneva, Lisbon, and Athens. Immigration facilities are now available in Italy. The problem in occupied territories, namely Germany and Austria, is a particularly difficult one. The prospective immigrants to be examined are displaced persons and refugees, a large number of whom are in camps scattered all over the occupied territories and unable to proceed to examination points. By arrangement with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, since replaced by the International Refugee Organization, itinerant immigration teams have been operating in Germany and Austria since March, 1947. Each team consists of an Immigration Inspector, a Medical Officer, and a Security Officer, and, as required, of an officer of the Department of Labour. The I.R.O. is responsible for the locating, assembling, and preliminary medical examination of prospective immigrants who come within the admissible classes, and for groups of workers in approved occupational categories. Applications by industrial firms for workers from ~~amongst~~ displaced persons in Europe are examined in Ottawa by an Inter-Departmental Committee composed of representatives of the Immigration Branch and of the Department of Labour who make recommendations as to the admission of stated numbers in the light of current circumstances. The Immigration Teams visit the camps where the prospective immigrants are assembled and by the examination of each applicant presented by I.R.O., establish his or her admissibility to Canada. There are also displaced persons and refugees in occupied territory who do not come within the mandate of the International Refugee Organization, but who are admissible under existing regulations to join first degree relatives in Canada. Such intending immigrants are located and presented for examination by the representatives of two Canadian voluntary organizations, the Canadian Christian Council for the Resettlement of Refugees and the Canadian Ukrainian Committee. Approved immigrants go forward to Canada as steamship accommodation becomes available.

The procedure described, dictated by the unprecedented conditions existing in Germany and Austria, was a new departure in so far as immigration inspection was concerned. As it was to be expected,

many difficulties were encountered. Teams were hampered by lack of transportation. This was overcome by sending Canadian automobiles to Germany. For a time, members of teams had to carry their personal effects and equipment from camp to camp, preparing documents and making reports as opportunity offered on the move. Hotel or office accommodation was simply non-existent. This situation was corrected by the establishment of a Canadian Government Immigration Mission Headquarters at Karlsruhe with clerical staff and rest billets for members of the teams. With the organization in Germany and Austria now in operation and the transportation gradually improving, the movement of approved displaced persons has been substantially accelerated.

The existing facilities for the examination of immigrants in Continental Europe are more extensive than those which existed before the war. This development is due to stricter frontier control as well as to the fact that prospective immigrants cannot obtain transit privileges as in pre-war days unless in possession of documentary evidence of admissibility to Canada. Thus, if Canada desired immigrants from countries other than those where actual embarkation took place, additional inspectional service had to be provided.

While by far the greater number of immigrants from overseas come from the British Isles and the Continent of Europe, immigrants do come to Canada from many other countries. To deal with these, immigration inspectional facilities are available at the offices of the Canadian High Commissioners in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, and at Canadian Missions in other countries. The Immigration office at Hong Kong to examine immigrants from the Far East, has also been re-opened.

#### CATEGORIES OF IMMIGRANTS

The following classes of immigrants are admissible, subject to being mentally and physically fit and of good character: British subjects born or naturalized in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, or the Union of South Africa; citizens of France\* and United States citizens coming from the United States, having sufficient funds to maintain themselves until established; first degree relatives of residents of Canada where the latter can receive and care for them; agriculturists with funds to farm, or joining relatives farming in Canada who can assist in their establishment on a farm; farm labourers and persons experienced in mining, lumbering, or logging coming to take assured employment; persons entering Canada for marriage; and persons who have obtained an honourable discharge from the Canadian armed forces. The admission of immigrants of Asiatic races is restricted to the wife and minor children of Canadian citizens.

Immigrants who are still enemy aliens are prohibited from admission to Canada unless it is established they were opposed to any enemy government.

Medical examinations are so arranged that practically all overseas immigrants obtain medical clearance before proceeding to Canada. In view of the prevalence of tuberculosis in many areas due to war conditions, Canada now requires that immigrants coming from countries where the death rate from tuberculosis is higher than in Canada, must produce a clear x-ray film of the chest.

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\* On September 9, at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Immigration Policy it was decided to recommend to the Government that citizens of France should be admitted to Canada on the same conditions as now apply to citizens of the United States and British subjects from the United Kingdom, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. This recommendation was accepted and the new policy brought into immediate effect by Order-in-Council.

Immigrants other than British subjects already mentioned and United States citizens must possess passports or travel documents establishing their identity. These must be endorsed by a Canadian officer in the immigrant's country of residence or before embarkation. The endorsement is given after admissibility is established, thus protecting the immigrant from a fruitless journey.

In the performance of their duties, Immigration officers are fully conscious of the fact that they are dealing with human beings. They also know that no law, however perfect, can adequately provide for all the human problems that arise. In this spirit, they exercise all possible care to prevent hardship and distress to those who, for statutory causes, cannot be admitted to, or must leave Canada.

#### CURRENT STATISTICAL DATA

Immigration to Canada during the six months ended June 30 surpassed that of the similar period in 1947 by 167.5 per cent.

The six months total was 57,275, as compared to 21,413 for the corresponding period a year ago. This total was only 6,852 less than the figure of 64,127 for the whole of the calendar year 1947.

A 79.6 increase was recorded in immigration from the British Isles, the total being 23,468 as against 13,068 for the six months ended June 30, 1947. Similar increases were recorded in arrivals of northern European immigrants, with this year's figure of 8,319 being more than three times greater than the 1947 total of 2,626. Totals for all other races was 21,908, as against 1,204 a year ago.

Of the 57,275 immigrants, Displaced Persons numbered 18,886. The total of Displaced Persons who had arrived in Canada at the end of June was more than 34,000.

There was a noticeable rise in the numbers of Dutch immigrants, this year's six month total being 5,820, as compared to 1,720 in the similar period of 1947. Of these, 4,318 came to Canada under the joint Dutch-Canadian scheme by which agriculturists and their families are travelling to this country in groups with the ultimate aim of purchasing their own farms.

Ontario received 29,098 new residents, with Quebec welcoming 10,456. The immigrants settled in other provinces as follows: Nova Scotia 1,108; New Brunswick 691; Prince Edward Island 93; Manitoba 3,249; Saskatchewan 1,933; Alberta 4,596; British Columbia 5,998; Yukon 44; Northwest Territories 9.

The movement is being accelerated by arrangements made with Trans-Canada Air Lines for the charter of planes to bring immigrants from the United Kingdom to Canada. This arrangement provides facilities for the transportation of 10,000 immigrants from the United Kingdom before the end of the present fiscal year.

The steamship "Aquitania" is also being used to bring United Kingdom immigrants to Canada, and will make eleven round trips this year. Displaced Persons in the close relatives category are being brought to this country by the steamship "Beverbrae", which is making regular trips carrying those people from occupied territory of Europe, in addition to the many other vessels being used for this purpose.

The latest statistical compilation shows that the total immigration during the first eight months of 1948 is 79,336 of which 31,190 were from the United Kingdom. For the corresponding period of 1947, the total immigration figure was 32,808.

Total immigration from September 1, 1945 to August 31, 1948 is 221,156. Of these 123,780 have come from the United Kingdom. The number of Displaced Persons admitted up to September 30, 1948, is 40,725.

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Total immigration from September 1, 1945 to August 31, 1948 is 821,136. Of these 122,780 have come from the United Kingdom. The number of Displaced Persons admitted up to September 30, 1948, is 40,788.