



INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 55

CANADA: A LAND FOR NEW CITIZENSThe Land

Canada encompasses a huge territory. It is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere, and third in size among the nations of the world. Canada covers almost half a continent, and includes the northern archipelago which extends practically to the Pole. The total area -- more than 3,800,000 square miles (9,842,000 square kilometers) -- is slightly larger than that of all Europe.

St. John's on the Atlantic coast of Canada is closer to Antwerp than it is to Vancouver on the Pacific coast. From east to west the boundary with the United States is almost 4,000 miles (6,440 kilometers) in length. From north to south Canada extends nearly 3,000 miles (4,830 kilometers) from the polar regions to the latitude of the Mediterranean.

Its Resources

Abundant and varied natural resources are found in every region. There are more than 500,000 square miles (1,295,000 square kilometers) of fertile land; great stands of timber in more than 1,000,000 square miles (2,590,000 square kilometers) of forest; extensive mineral deposits, including gold, radium, and the world's greatest sources of nickel and asbestos; almost limitless supplies of hydro-electric power; about one third of the fresh water in the world; and extensive marine and inland fisheries.

The People

The greater part of this immense land is sparsely inhabited, and Canada's population of fourteen millions is largely concentrated within 200 miles (322 kilometers) of the southern border. But the crop limit in different areas, which enjoy a mean summer temperature of 57° Fahrenheit (13.8° Centigrade), extends far north of this; Canada's huge northern territories beyond this crop limit are still largely undeveloped.

Old Inhabitants and New

Canada's population of fourteen millions can be roughly divided into three main groups, all of European origin. English and French, the two official languages of Canada, indicate the largest of these. The third is a composite group of other European peoples.

Persons of British stock account for slightly less than one-half of the total population. Included in this group are the descendants of immigrants from the British Isles, of the United Empire Loyalists who migrated to Canada after the American Revolution, and more recent

settlers from the United States and the United Kingdom. Canadians of British origin are spread out across the country but are somewhat more concentrated in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario and British Columbia.

Over thirty per cent of the population are Canadians of French stock. They have almost all sprung from the French colonists who remained in Canada when it came under British rule in 1763. Although over a million of them now live in other parts of Canada, most of them are in the Province of Quebec. Here they have retained a distinct way of life which is guaranteed and respected by the nature of the Canadian federation. The French element of the Canadian people continues to maintain a high degree of homogeneity and cohesion.

The third segment of the population came to Canada largely with the wave of settlement which swept over the West during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Immigration declined in the period between the wars, but has increased sharply since 1945. Between September 1, 1945 and August 31, 1950, 411,671 immigrants came to Canada from about forty different countries.

The Canadian Way of Life

It will be apparent that life in Canada is influenced by a combination of peoples and cultures. This combination, with its infinitely varied components, is producing a distinct nationality, and a way of life that is peculiarly Canadian.

Constructive Compromise

Canada's political, educational, and judicial institutions are based on the knowledge and traditions of lands across the sea, whether British or French, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, newspapers are published in twenty-three different languages. The Canadian capacity for workable compromise is well illustrated by the organization of radio in this bilingual country. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, created in 1936, is publicly owned and controlled. It operates three main networks, one of them in French. Local broadcasting, however, is in the hands of private commercial stations. In many areas, private stations are the outlets for network broadcasts. Canadian radio is thus a combination of public and private ownership, of English and French speech, of British and United States patterns. United States radio stations are easily heard in Canada, and their most popular programmes are carried on Canadian networks.

North American Influences

Canada must inevitably share in the civilization and reflect the influences of the Western Hemisphere. The proximity of Canada and the United States, their common stake in the North American continent, the constant movement of people and products across the unguarded boundary, are factors in the deep-rooted kinship which exists between their peoples. Business, press, entertainment sports, labour and fraternal organizations, all tend toward development along continental rather than national lines.

From clothing to comic-strips, the products in daily use throughout Canada are much the same as those in the United States. The great majority of films shown are products of Hollywood, although an increasing audience is being found for European pictures, both English and continental. The largest trade union bodies are the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour. Both these organizations include unions which are affiliated with their American counterparts.

The Canadian Standard of Living

From a material standpoint, Canadians enjoy a high standard of living, a North American standard similar to that achieved by the industrial economy of the United States. One out of every seven Canadians drives his own automobile, and there are about eighteen telephones for every twenty-five households. In 1948 nearly two million licenses for private radio receiving sets were issued. Refrigerators, washing-machines, oil furnaces, sewing-machines, and mechanical devices of all kinds are common in Canadian homes, both urban and rural.

Canadians Get Together

Readily apparent in the Canadian pattern is the fact that the people are gregarious; throughout the country are countless associations, clubs, and societies, for athletic and recreational activities, for community service, for study and debate. Churches have been centres of social life since pioneer days; in more recent years community centres have been built in many villages, towns, and urban districts, but these facilities have encouraged rather than supplanted such traditional amusements as the sleighing party, the corn roast, or the hike. Pleasure is mixed with work when the maple trees are tapped in the spring, and the sap boiled down to sugar and syrup; and when a farmer builds a new barn, the "barn raising" may still be a community, and a festive project. Agricultural fairs in the autumn are highlights of the rural year; at these farm produce and farming skills are judged, and livestock entered in competition. The annual Calgary Stampede, which combines pageantry with vigorous competition, reflects the life of the western ranches.

The Great Outdoors

The lives of Canadians are strongly affected by the distinctive environment in which they live. In all seasons they are drawn to the open country, to the lakes and rivers, woods and mountains, of their vast land. For a surprisingly large income group, the summer cottage, owned or rented, is a cherished institution. In summertime, Canadians are especially fond of camping, and the more intrepid pack tents and spend vacations in exploration of the hinterland; they emulate the native Indians in their handling of canoes, in their mastery of wilderness conditions, in their hunting and fishing skills. Almost as soon as a child can walk he takes to skates and sleigh; skiing and ice-hockey are popular winter pastimes from coast to coast and young and old alike are absorbed in following the fortunes of local and national hockey teams. Football in the autumn, and baseball in spring and summer, arouse equally keen interest, and more individual pursuits, such as golf and sailing, bowling and tennis, are widely enjoyed.

The Foundation of Nationhood

A lively response to environment, a capacity to assimilate and blend different cultural forces, and the assumption that diversity offers no threat to national unity -- these are the materials of Canadian nationhood, the strength of which depends on the number and character of Canada's citizens. Thousands of these citizens have, in modern times, come to Canada from abroad; in 1900 there were 41,000 immigrants to Canada; in 1913 the new arrivals numbered over 400,000. Two world wars and the depression of the thirties combined to reduce drastically this enriching flow of people, which began again on a small but fruitful scale, in 1945. Although Canada's population has, by immigration and natural increase, grown by nearly two million since the end of the second world war, the population density is something less than 4 per square mile, compared with, for example, 516 in the United Kingdom, 712 in Belgium, and 717 in the Netherlands. Canada has room for newcomers; and it is the present policy of the Canadian Government to welcome them.

The Immigration Act^X

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

Immigration from overseas was controlled by legislation as early as 1874, but it was not until 1906 that inspection 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 administrative machinery, sets out the duties of Immigration Officers, and defines the procedure applicable to persons asking

X Immigration to Canada for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 1950

	<u>From Overseas</u>			
	<u>British</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>From U.S.A.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
April	2,994	5,538	560	9,092
May	2,217	6,331	636	9,184
June	2,903	8,228	636	11,967
July	1,939	7,937	740	10,616
August	1,806	5,210	835	7,851
September	1,165	2,155	854	4,174
October	1,450	5,394	708	7,552
November	1,822	3,864	666	6,352
December	644	4,053	467	5,164
January	556	2,699	455	3,710
February	855	3,728	376	4,959
March	847	4,427	527	5,801
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,198	59,564	7,660	86,422

entry to Canada and to those subject to deportation. It also defines the classes of persons whose admission is prohibited, and the responsibility of transportation companies, and provides penalties for violation of the Act. The second part deals with the selection of immigrants and the control of their movement. The Immigration Act is designed to enable the Governor in Council rapidly to amend or repeal existing regulations in the light of changing conditions.

The Immigration Branch

The headquarters of the Immigration Branch are at Ottawa. The Director of Immigration is responsible to the Deputy Minister and the Minister for the Administration of the Act. The Canadian Field Service is made up of five districts, each with a Superintendent: Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Western and Pacific. There are, in all, 293 ports of entry along the Canada-United States border and on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard. 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 heavy. The admissibility of every person who enters Canada is established by an Immigration Officer at one of these ports. 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

The Overseas Service functions along the same lines as its counterpart in Canada. Its various offices abroad are under a Superintendent located in London, England, who reports to the Director of Immigration in Ottawa. Working in co-operation with them both in Canada and overseas are members of the Settlement Service, who give close attention to the problems of individual immigrants and advice as to settlement prospects and business opportunities in Canada.

United Kingdom Offices

Immigration offices in the United Kingdom are located in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast. An immigration office is also located at Dublin, Ireland.

Operations on the Continent

For the past twenty-five years, a system of preliminary examination of immigrants from Continental Europe has been in effect. This is intended to establish, before they embark, the admissibility of persons wishing to settle in Canada, thus avoiding the hardship that would result from rejection of the Canadian port of entry and subsequent deportation.

At present immigration offices are in operation at Paris, Brussels, The Hague, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Berne, Rome and Athens. In other cities on the continent diplomatic representatives of Canada deal with immigration matters.

Canadian Government Immigration Missions are located at Karlsruhe, Germany, and Salzburg, Austria, and from them itinerant immigration teams have been operating since March 1947. Prospective immigrants among the Displaced Persons are assembled and given preliminary medical examinations by the International Refugee Organization, after which they are examined by the immigration teams.

Facilities Elsewhere

While by far the greater number of immigrants from overseas come from the British Isles and the Continent of Europe, they also come to Canada from many other countries. To deal with such persons, immigration inspection facilities are available at the offices of the Canadian High Commissioners in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, and at Canadian Posts in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, and Venezuela. Immigrants from the Far East are examined at the Immigration Office in Hong Kong.

Admissible Classes

Regulations governing the entry of immigrants were broadened considerably by Order in Council P.C. 2856, which went into effect on July 1, 1950.

Certain classes were not affected by the Order in Council. These are British subjects born or naturalized in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or the Union of South Africa; citizens of Ireland who have become citizens of the United Kingdom by registration under the British Nationalist Act, 1948; citizens of Ireland, United States citizens, and citizens of France having sufficient funds to maintain themselves until established. These classes are admissible subject to their being mentally and physically fit and of good character. Persons who, having entered Canada as non-immigrants, enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces and having served in such Forces, have been honourably discharged, are also admissible as heretofore.

Under the new Order in Council, certain restrictive classes were abolished, and the admission of all other immigrants was placed in the hands of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. These persons must satisfy the Minister, whose decision shall be final, that:

- (a) they are suitable immigrants having regard to the climatic, social, educational, industrial, labour, or other conditions or requirements of Canada; and
- (b) they are not undesirable owing to their peculiar customs, habits, modes of life, methods of holding property, or because of their probable inability to become readily adapted and integrated into the life of a Canadian community and to assume the duties of Canadian citizenship within a reasonable time after their entry.

Medical Examinations

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 because of war conditions, Canada now requires that immigrants coming from countries where the death rate from tuberculosis is higher than in Canada produce a clear x-ray film of the chest. Free x-ray facilities in the British Isles and France are now available for prospective immigrants.

Canada-Netherlands Farm Settlement Plan

One of the most interesting immigration developments in the postwar period has been the Canada-Netherlands Farm Settlement Plan which, since April 1947, has brought approximately 21,000 members of Netherlands farm families to Canada.

By arrangement with the Netherlands authorities, agriculturists whose lands were flooded as a result of military operations are coming to settle in Canada. These people are not farm labourers but bona fide farm settlers with financial resources which would normally allow them to purchase land in Canada. Owing to current exchange difficulties they are at the present time able to export only a limited portion of their capital, but their intention is the eventual purchase of farms of their own. In fact, a substantial number of them have already managed in the short time they have been in Canada to save enough money to do this. These Netherlands settlers migrate in family groups and have proven eminently successful in adapting themselves to Canadian agricultural methods.

Displaced Persons

Various other special groups of people have come to live in Canada since the Second World War, among them 4,500 Polish ex-servicemen and 2,000 orphans from the camps of Europe.

Canada took the initiative among non-European countries in assisting individuals uprooted from their own communities during the conflicts of the past decade to resettle, taking positive action without waiting for a general international agreement. For many months Canada was admitting more Displaced Persons than all other non-European countries combined.

From April, 1947, to August 31, 1950, a total of 108,430 Displaced Persons were welcomed to Canada, most of them in two main categories: those whose skills and service were requested by industry, and those admissible as relatives of Canadian residents.

A Place in the Canadian Economy

Almost without exception, Canadian trade unions have been friendly toward the movement of Displaced Persons and have co-operated in their assimilation into Canadian industry. The greatest care has been taken to ensure that the rate of new arrivals does not exceed Canada's economic capacity to absorb them. The pulp and paper industry, agriculture, and the mining industry have absorbed large

numbers, while many garment, hydro and railway workers are plying their trades in new surroundings. Nearly 10,000 girls from the Displaced Persons' camps are employed as domestic workers in hospitals and homes. The Displaced Persons admitted between April 1947, and August 31, 1950, may be grouped as follows:

Farmers	6,456
Family Farm Group	4,765
Woodworkers	3,600
Textile Workers	586
Textile Workers' dependents	16
Domestic Married Couples	110
Garment Workers	2,855
Garment Workers' dependents	2,347
Railway Workers	2,576
Hydro Workers	2,484
Building Construction	799
Steel and Foundry Workers	314
Steel and Foundry Workers' dependents	34
Miners	3,950
Domestics	10,339
Nurses	52
Special Trades	234
Furriers	462
Furriers' dependents	414
Shoe Workers	110
General Labourers	447
General Labourers' dependents	268
Cabinet Makers	92
Cabinet Makers' dependents	2
Blacksmiths	20
Handicraft Workers	26
Handicraft Workers' dependents	30
	<hr/>
Total	45,188
Nominated cases and destined to relatives	61,949
Orphans	1,263
International Exchange Students	30
	<hr/>
Grand Total	108,430

Such groups as these have been admitted to Canada by a post-war group movement plan. Still others have come to this country through the close relatives plan. Both these schemes represent the implementation of a statement made by the then Prime Minister, the late Mr. W.L. Mackenzie King, in May 1947: "The government will seek," Mr. King said, "by legislation, regulation and vigorous administration, to ensure the careful selection and permanent settlement of such numbers of immigrants as can advantageously be absorbed in our National Economy...." In this spirit and with this objective, the administration of the Immigration Act is carried on today.

The Past and the Future

The natural heritage of Canada is still in the stage of discovery and development. The original inhabitants of this country, the Indians and Eskimos, led

primitive lives and lacked the techniques necessary to make the land yield up its riches. It remained for newcomers from Europe, in the beginning of modern Canadian history, to tap the treasures hidden in the soil, forest and rock of Canada; to take up the tremendous challenge of the Canadian land; to overcome its vast geographic barriers; to span its distances. The opportunity and the challenge yet remain.

RP/A

primitive lives and lacked the technical resources necessary to
make the land yield in its richness. It remained for
man to begin to improve the land, in the beginning of modern
Canadian history, to tap the treasures hidden in the soil.
Forest and rock of Canada; to take up the tremendous
challenge of the Canadian land; to overcome its vast
geographic barriers; to open its distant
opportunities and the challenge yet remains.