

CHAPTER VI.—IMMIGRATION.

While the great majority of French-Canadians can trace their descent to ancestors who left the Old World 250 years ago or even longer, most English-speaking Canadians are comparative newcomers both to Canada and to this continent, though a considerable number of the United Empire Loyalist families had been resident in the old colonies for generations before they moved north to establish English-speaking settlements in what is now the Dominion of Canada. During the middle third of the nineteenth century a great English-speaking migration entered the province of Ontario and made it for the first time more populous than the sister province of Quebec, thus bringing about the agitation for representation by population. Thereafter immigration slackened until the dawn of the twentieth century brought another flood of settlers to the newly opened territories of the great Northwest, resulting in an increase of population between the censuses of 1901 and 1911 greater than the combined increase of the three decades from 1871 to 1901.

Immigration during the second decade of the twentieth century promised at its commencement to be even greater than during the first. In its first three years no fewer than 1,141,547 persons entered Canada for purposes of settlement, but the Great War, which commenced for Canada on Aug. 4, 1914, dried up the sources of our immigration in Great Britain and Continental Europe, where every able-bodied man was needed for the defence of his country. Immigrant arrivals from the United Kingdom in 1918 numbered only about 3,000, as compared with 150,000 in 1913; immigrant arrivals from Continental Europe numbered less than 3,000 in 1916, as compared with approximately 135,000 in 1914. Since the War, immigration to the Dominion has never approached that of the pre-war period.

Section 1.—Statistics of Immigration.

Immigration to Canada, as to other new countries, is generally greatest in "boom" periods, when capital as well as labour is leaving the older countries for the newer in order to secure the more remunerative investments generally to be found in virgin territories where the natural resources are still unexploited. In periods of depression, however, the sending abroad of both capital and labour is diminished, both preferring at such times to endure the ills which they know at home rather than take the risks of a new adventure at a distance. Indeed, the depression which began about the close of 1929, with its accompanying unemployment and unsold surplus of farm products, raised the question whether it was desirable that Canada should accept immigrants in any considerable number. Therefore the Government, on Aug. 14, 1930, passed an Order in Council whereby immigrants, except Britishers coming from the Mother Country or self-governing Dominions and United States citizens coming from the United States, were allowed to come in only if they belonged to one of two classes—(a) wives and unmarried children under eighteen years of age, joining family heads established in Canada and in a position to look after their dependants; (b) agriculturists with sufficient money to begin farming in Canada. This limitation applies to the whole continent of Europe as well as to many other countries. Regulations affecting immigration from the British Isles, the British Dominions or the United States have not been changed but a policy of no solicitation has been rigidly adopted. In harmony with