

Owing to British exchange regulations, it is not possible for parents to send funds for the support of their children nor is it possible for British wives to have sterling funds transferred for their support here. Children evacuated from cities to the countryside in Britain were supported at a weekly rate paid by parents and by the British Government. In the Dominion, however, free homes were offered in such numbers that it was possible to place British children as guests in Canadian homes where they were treated and provided for as a member of the family, with the exception in some cases of clothing, hospitalization, dental and medical care. The Provinces and the Children's Aid Societies use all their existing organizations for the care of the children, without charge, but any extra expense in staff, reception, maintenance, transportation, replacement, hospitalization and medical care, may be charged back to the Dominion Government.

The story of the coming of British children would not be complete without a reference to the National Advisory Committee for Children from Overseas. This Committee was set up in the summer of 1940 in anticipation of a much larger movement of children than actually took place. The Committee is composed of prominent Canadians resident in the various provinces, and as its name indicates is purely an advisory body whose recommendations are made to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Between general meetings, the Committee functions through an executive which holds periodical meetings at Ottawa for the consideration of all problems relating to the welfare of British guest children while in the Dominion. The Committee also receives donations for the care of children and all expenditures incurred by the provinces or their co-ordinating societies are paid by the Committee either out of donations which the Committee receives from public-spirited persons or by grants made by the Dominion Government.

In the autumn of 1940 two ships carrying children to Canada were torpedoed in the Atlantic. These incidents brought to an unexpected end a movement which had aroused the greatest interest throughout Canada and had moved at least 50,000 Canadians to offer their homes for the accommodation of British guest children for the duration of the War.

Subsection 8.—Refugee Immigration

The term "refugee" in recent years has acquired a much wider application than when it became a familiar word after the First World War. Then it was applied mainly to those who had lost both homes and citizenship; latterly it has been applied to all who, because of political, religious, racial or economic troubles, actual or threatened, have been forced or induced to move.

Prior to the First World War, European immigration to Canada was largely the result of publicity efforts of transportation companies and the Dominion Government, and at times of societies or organizations. At that time the term "refugee" was seldom heard. That War, which made such sweeping changes in the boundaries of European States, changed the citizenship of between thirty and forty million people. It also created new nationalities, but left large numbers without any recognized citizenship and these later became known as refugees. The League of Nations devoted a great deal of attention and effort to the care, migration and settlement of thousands of these homeless and Stateless people and, through a Commissioner for Refugees and the co-operation of several countries, was successful in transplanting a large number of refugees to new homes.

Following the First World War, many persons were anxious to leave Europe but, of those coming to Canada, a large number were unable to meet the requirements of the Immigration Act and consequently had to be refused admission. Conditions