

CHAPTER V.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION*

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—Immigration

Subsection 1.—Growth of Immigration

In 1851 the population of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick totalled 2,312,919 and in 1941 the population of the Dominion was 11,506,655. During that period no fewer than 6,703,891 persons were admitted as immigrants, not all of whom stayed in the Dominion, for numbers eventually found their way to the United States while others returned to the land of their birth.

The years between 1900 and 1914, a period of general expansion and industrialization which accompanied a great inflow of capital from Great Britain, witnessed the heaviest movement of immigrants into Canada. The highest figure was reached in 1913, when 400,870 persons were admitted. After the outbreak of war in 1914, immigration declined to a fraction of the pre-war movement and on the conclusion of peace it did not immediately revive; even the post-war boom of 1920 was accompanied by an immigration of less than 140,000. However, towards the end of the 1920's, the numbers increased somewhat. During this period, the immigration policy of the Dominion Government was one of active encouragement, but the depression that began late in 1929 necessitated restrictions that greatly reduced immigration throughout the 1930's. The outbreak of war in 1939 still further reduced the numbers entering Canada but the downward trend changed in 1943 due to the movement to Canada of dependents of the Armed Forces. In January, 1942, provision was made to furnish the dependents of members of the Armed Forces serving overseas with free transportation from their home in country of residence to destination in Canada. From 1942 to 1946, 62,077 dependents, comprising 42,098 adults and 19,979 children, were admitted to Canada.

After the end of the War, it was considered advisable to permit a somewhat increased movement of immigrants to Canada and at the same time provide for the admission of a number of refugees or displaced persons. Consequently, under

* Revised under the direction of A. L. Jolliffe, Director of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.