

CHAPTER V.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION*

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—Immigration

General Summary of Immigration

In Canada, as in other young countries which have proved attractive to the immigrant, early immigration showed a recurrence of periods of very rapid growth, usually connected with certain important events in history, e.g.; Royal Government (1663), the American Revolution (1776), the Constitution Act (1791), building and development of Canadian railways (1880-1886) and the opening up of the Canadian West (1896-1911). These events all brought immigrants in substantial numbers to Canada in a period when the movement was unrestricted. Wars and periods of economic depression on the other hand have interfered with these movements.

Canadian immigration in its earliest days was confined, for the most part, to the French and British races. The French settlers, 28 in number, who wintered at the site of Quebec in 1608, were the beginnings of a French immigration movement that extended over the next 50 years and was largely associated with the monopolistic trading companies but by 1661 the population had increased to a mere 2,400 persons. After 1663, however, when King Louis XIV took over the colonization of New France, soldiers sent to protect the settlement from the Indians remained as settlers. They were followed by a systematic immigration of 'brides' and this assured the stability of the Canadian family. By 1701, the population numbered 17,000.

British immigration was very small until the American Revolution, when the movement of United Empire Loyalists at the outbreak of the Revolution established several permanent English-speaking settlements. With the Constitution Act of 1791 dividing Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, interest in British immigration was increased and, from 1827 to 1832, 170,677 British immigrants arrived. Two-thirds of these were from Ireland, the remainder from England and Scotland: they settled in Upper Canada which then became more populous than Lower Canada.

Within the decade 1851-61, 216,000 immigrants arrived. Toward the latter part of that century the discovery of coal and gold in British Columbia, development of railroads and canals and opening up of the Northwest as with the extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba brought many Continental Europeans and the first Oriental immigrants to Canada. Total immigration during the period 1861-91 amounted to 1,407,000.

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