

However, commercial depression and other influences between 1897-1900 reduced immigration and caused a large counter-migration to the United States, including for the first time, many emigrants of French origin. Immigrant arrivals between 1891 and 1900 numbered only 257,000.

The opening up of the wheat-producing prairies at the beginning of the twentieth century brought about the most spectacular immigration period in Canadian history, resulting in an increase of population between 1901 and 1911 of 1,847,651, with a steady continuing increase until an all-time high for any single year was reached in 1913 with 400,870 arrivals. After the outbreak of war in 1914, immigration declined. The highest figure recorded between 1913 and 1947 was in 1928 when immigrants numbered 166,783. During the depression from 1930 to 1939, immigrant arrivals were below 20,000 per annum. The War of 1939-45 again brought immigration almost to a standstill, less than 50,000 arrivals entering between 1940 and 1944. The wives and children of Canadian Service men made up most of the immigration during 1945-46, other arrivals numbering only 11,545.

Post-War Immigration Policy.—Immigration to Canada, which is based primarily on the Immigration Act of 1910 as revised in 1927, was, by Order in Council 695, dated Mar. 31, 1931, prohibited, with the exception of a few classes of immigrants. Since 1937, however, there have been a series of Orders passed which have widened the admissible classes to Canada. At the end of the Second World War the Regulations were further broadened to facilitate this end.

The policy of the Government is to foster the growth of the population of Canada by the systematic encouragement of immigration. At present (May, 1948) a Canadian citizen or Canadian resident, may bring to Canada any of the following categories of relatives:—

- (1) Husband or wife.
- (2) Father or mother.
- (3) Son, daughter, brother or sister, together with husband or wife and unmarried children if any.
- (4) Orphan nephew or niece, under 21 years of age.

In addition to the relatives mentioned above, agriculturists intending to farm, miners and woods-workers proceeding to assured employment in such industries, fiancés and fiancées of Canadian residents, are also among the admissible classes.

To provide for the necessary servicing of the immigrants, emigration offices are now in operation at London, Glasgow, Paris, Brussels, Rome, The Hague and Hong Kong. In addition, special immigration facilities are available in the Canadian Missions at Prague, Athens, Berne, Warsaw, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Moscow, Lisbon, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago as well as at the High Commissioner's Office in the various Dominions.

Transportation for immigration purposes was at a premium during the whole of 1947. Up to the beginning of December, 1947, there were only two regular passenger vessels in the Canadian Service on which berths for immigrants could be obtained. In December, another vessel entered the North Atlantic Service and a fourth in February, 1948.

The most notable development in Canada's immigration policy during 1947, was the admission of the first displaced persons (D.P's.) from the refugee camps in Europe. Three United States transports, under charter, are used for the transportation to Canada of these refugees and displaced persons under the care of the International Refugee Organization. The program consisted of two main parts, the Close Relatives Plan and the Group Movement Plan.