

CHAPTER V.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Section 1.—Immigration

The history of immigration to Canada is given briefly at pp. 172-173 of the 1948-49 Year Book.

The Immigration Act and Regulations.—Immigration to Canada is controlled by the terms of the Immigration Act and by the Regulations and Orders made under authority of the provisions of that Act. The Act itself is purposely flexible and does not define the classes or categories of persons who are admissible to Canada as immigrants. Such definitions are given in Regulations made under the Act by Order in Council. On the other hand, the Act does define certain prohibited classes, including persons suffering from some forms of mental or physical ailments, criminals, advocates of the use of force or violence against organized government, spies, illiterates and others. Persons within these prohibited classes cannot be admitted to Canada as immigrants except by Act of Parliament.

Under the Immigration Act and Regulations as they stand to-day, the categories of persons admissible to Canada as immigrants may be readily summarized.

The first and most-favoured group includes British subjects from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa; citizens of Ireland; citizens of the United States; and French citizens born in France and entering Canada directly from that country. Such persons are admissible if they can satisfy the immigration officers at the port of entry that they are in good physical and mental health; they are of good character; and they are not likely to become a public charge. The legal barriers against the admission of these favoured groups have been lowered as far as it is safe for any country to go in dealing with prospective residents.

The second general category of admissible persons consists of close relatives of Canadian citizens or of persons legally admitted to and domiciled in Canada. The relationships covered by this regulation are:—

- (1) Husband or wife;
- (2) Father or mother;
- (3) Son, daughter, brother or sister together with husband or wife and unmarried children;
- (4) Orphan nephews or nieces under 21 years of age (the term "orphan" used here means a child bereaved of both parents);
- (5) A prospective husband or wife entering Canada to marry a legal resident; provided that in either case the intended husband is able to support his intended wife.

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