

CHAPTER V.—IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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.*

PART I.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

Section 1.—Immigration*

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

Subsection 1.—Legislation and Administration

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 is purposely flexible and does not define the classes or categories of persons admissible to Canada as immigrants. Such definitions are given in Regulations made under the Act by Order in Council. The Act does, however, define certain prohibited classes, including persons suffering from some forms of mental or physical ailment, 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 at July 1, 1950, 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; and native-born citizens of the United States and France entering Canada directly from those countries. 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.

* Revised in the Immigration Branch under the direction of Laval Fortier, Deputy Minister, Department of Citizenship and Immigration.