

The Chinese Immigration Act was repealed in 1947 and certain other restrictions lifted. In 1951 special agreements were reached with the Commonwealth countries of India, Pakistan and Ceylon respecting the entry of their nationals. Conditions governing the admission of non-Europeans are given at pp. 172-173.

Before World War I the most important criterion of selection applied to those who did not fall into prohibited categories was their suitability as farmers. After the War, while this still remained important, selection was exercised also according to whether applicants for entry belonged to "preferred" or "non-preferred" countries. Traditional affinities with the United Kingdom and the United States naturally favoured immigrants from these countries. Citizens of France were added later to this category.* Next in order of preference came immigrants from northern and western Europe who were not too different in language and mode of life, followed by those from central and eastern Europe and by those of southern Europe including Greece, Italy, Syria and Turkey. Jews, regardless of citizenship, were treated separately.† These groupings may be compared with the currently admissible classes (p. 172).

After World War I fundamental changes were introduced also in methods of recruitment and in regulative measures. Canada took somewhat longer to recover from the War than the United States and until 1923 immigrants other than those going to assured farm work or domestic service were required to have stated sums of money. The immigration from 1923 onward was governed chiefly by two Orders in Council of Jan. 1, 1923: one established the passport and visa qualification as a condition of entry for other than British and American citizens; the other rescinded the earlier money requirement and provided that *bona fide* agriculturalists with funds, farm workers with reasonable assurance of employment, domestics, the wives and children under 18 years of age of Canadian residents and sponsored relatives might be admitted. Generally admissible, provided they had sufficient means until they could find employment, were United States citizens and British subjects within the meaning of the Act. None of these provisions applied to persons of Asiatic race.

One feature of the immigration policy of the 1920's was the promotion of British immigration under the Empire Settlement Act, which was passed by the British Parliament on May 31, 1922. Until 1931 some 130,000 persons came to Canada under various agreements under this Act though indirectly the Act also promoted unassisted immigration which by far outnumbered the assisted. Among other reasons, its relative lack of success was perhaps the fact that it aimed at land settlement at a time when Canada was becoming an industrial nation.

Under a series of agreements from 1925 onward, the recruitment and forwarding of immigrants from the "non-preferred" central, east, south and southeast European countries was given to the Canadian railways. The railways appointed Certificate Issuing Officers who examined potential immigrants at internal points and, if found suitable as agriculturalists, issued certificates to this effect with assurance of employment on arrival in Canada. Since the Government reserved the right to deny admission at the port of entry on grounds of health, morals and other provision of the Immigration Act, the railway officers also had to assure themselves regarding validity of passports of the immigrants, their literacy, physical and mental fitness and their general eligibility under the Act. The role of the Canadian railways in the promotion of immigration and in the settlement of the West has been far-reaching and outstanding.

With the onset of the world depression of the 1930's, several increasingly restrictive Orders in Council were passed. An Order of Aug. 7, 1929, prohibited the landing in Canada of any immigrant coming under contract or agreement, express or implied, to perform labour or service of any kind in Canada. This regulation, however, did not apply to farmers, farm labourers or houseworkers or to any contract labourer whose service was considered required in Canada. Then, in August 1930, immigration from Europe was

* P.C. 4186, Sept. 16, 1948 as amended by P.C. 5593, Dec. 10, 1948.

† H. F. Angus, "Need for an Immigration Policy" *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Sept. 1947.