

IMMIGRATION POLICY

The main outline of the policy which has been followed since the resumption of immigration after World War II was stated by the then Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in a debate of the House of Commons on May 1, 1947. That statement in summary affirmed Canada's need for population and the intention of the government to attain a larger population through a program of immigration. Regarding long-term objectives it was stated that "apart from all else, in a world of shrinking distances and international insecurity, we cannot ignore the danger that lies in a small population holding so great a heritage as ours" Along with strategic considerations a larger population would help also to develop the country's resources and by providing a larger number of consumers would reduce the dependence on foreign trade. Respecting numbers of immigrants it was of the utmost importance to relate immigration to absorptive capacity, a factor that would vary from year to year in response to economic conditions. Regarding selection of immigrants the statement stressed that "Canada is perfectly within her rights in selecting the persons whom we regard as desirable future citizens. It is not a fundamental right of any alien to enter Canada." As to the sources of immigration: "There will, I am sure, be general agreement with the view that the people of Canada do not wish, as a result of mass immigration, to make any fundamental alteration in the character of our population. Large-scale immigration from the Orient would change the fundamental composition of the Canadian population", and "would, moreover, be certain to give rise to social and economic problems of a character that might lead to serious difficulties in the field of international relations".

IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT

The important provisions of the Act are now considered in greater detail. Sect. 20 to 31 of the Act provide for examination, inquiries and appeals respecting the status of immigrants under Sect. 5 of the Act which defines prohibited classes, and their status with respect to Sect. 61 of the Act and the regulations made under it which define admissible classes and conditions of entry.

Prohibited Classes.—Persons who are prohibited permanent entry include mental defectives and the mentally ill or those with a history of such illness, epileptics, persons afflicted with tuberculosis, trachoma, or any contagious diseases, immigrants who are dumb, blind or otherwise physically impaired. The entry of persons in some of these categories may be permitted if they have sufficient means of support or are taken care of by family members so as not to become public charges.

Also excluded are persons who have been convicted of any crime involving "moral turpitude" though age at conviction, time elapsed since and evidence of successful rehabilitation may be taken into consideration. Barred are prostitutes, homosexuals, pimps or, generally, persons seeking entry for immoral purposes, professional beggars and vagrants, persons who are public charges or are judged likely to become such, alcoholics, drug addicts, or persons who have trafficked in drugs, within the meaning of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, or are likely to do so. Prohibited entry are persons deemed likely to advocate the overthrow of the system of government by force or subversion, persons who are or have been associated with any subversive organization, spies, saboteurs, persons found guilty of high treason or conspiracy and in general persons who fail to comply with entry regulations.

Sect. 61 of the Act provides authority whereby the categories and qualifications required of persons seeking admission to Canada may be controlled. *Inter alia*, the Governor in Council may make regulations respecting medical and other examinations or tests and the prohibiting or limiting of the entry of those unable to pass them, respecting the terms and conditions of admission of persons who have received assistance to come to Canada,