

PLACEMENT OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS

The Immigration Branch, through its field services and with special reference to immigrants, maintains a continual survey of economic opportunities. This in conjunction with the information gained by the Department of Labour makes for fairly complete coverage of conditions throughout Canada relating to absorption of immigrants. Such information is forwarded to immigration officers abroad to guide them in the selection of applicants and in the regulation of the flow of admissions.

As additions to the labour force, immigrants are usually selected because there is demand for workers in the occupations they are able to fill. Selection, therefore, is not on a 'one job—one man' basis, except in special cases, and the immigrant worker is free to compete with others in the Canadian labour market. The facilities of the National Employment Service are equally available to immigrants and citizens.

The Settlement Service of the Immigration Branch is of particular interest to persons who aim to be self-employed. Immigrants, equally with Canadians, are free to engage in any type of business. They are subject only to the ordinary regulations and restrictions which govern the operation of any enterprise in Canada. Settlement Service officers located in all districts across Canada offer a wide range of assistance advising newcomers in matters such as the purchase of properties, financing and evaluating prospects of success.

ASSISTANCE AND INTEGRATION

One aim of successful integration is to equalize the position of immigrants with that of Canadian citizens. Satisfactory occupational placement to this end is essential. Newcomers being strangers in the country, however, will often require additional assistance and direction.

At the main Canadian ports immigration officers, railway officials, representatives of churches and volunteer groups and societies, and sometimes consular representatives of the immigrant's homelands are present to direct and guide newcomers to their destinations, assist families, help in locating relatives, shelter and jobs and generally give counsel and information. In nine cities the Immigration Department maintains halls for stopover purposes where immigrants may wait for travel or other arrangements to be made. In nearly every community where there are many newcomers, night classes in language and citizenship are conducted, organized usually under the provincial departments of education with the Government of Canada sharing the costs. Those isolated on farms or in the bush may take such courses by correspondence. Voluntary organizations assist the newcomers to become part of the social life of the community.

Having regard for possible hazards of settling in a new environment which immigrants may have to face, the Government of Canada, under a series of agreements with most provinces, shares on an equal basis for a period of twelve months the cost of medical care, hospitalization, temporary welfare and rehabilitation assistance for immigrants who have become destitute through no fault of their own, but do not have the required residence qualifications to benefit from the services normally applied to indigents by provincial and municipal governments. Moreover, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is also empowered to provide financial and other emergency assistance under the same circumstances. Regulations have been relaxed so that immigrants receiving such assistance are not subject to deportation "on the sole ground of indigency". The Department may also provide emergency assistance, financial and other, to immigrants who within twelve months after landing and through no fault of their own, have become destitute because of unemployment or other misfortune.

Newcomers, regardless of citizenship, share alike with Canadians the benefits of all general social assistance measures in effect in Canada, though most of these involve a residence requirement. The three-year residence requirement originally contained in the Family Allowance Act (*see* Index) was reduced in 1948 to one year to assist more readily immigrant families. It was not considered practicable to reduce the residence requirement