

Stockholm, Helsinki, Lisbon, Rome, Athens, Tel Aviv, New Delhi and Hong Kong. Two offices in the United States—at New York and Chicago—furnish information and counselling but do not issue visas. Personnel at all posts are kept in close touch with economic conditions in Canada and thus are able to advise immigrants regarding prospects for successful settlement. Examination of immigrants and visitors is carried out at 343 ports of entry on the Canadian coasts, at points along the International Boundary, and at certain airports.

A primary objective of administration is satisfactory settlement. The Federal Government assists immigrants in establishing themselves in the Canadian community through the work of the Immigration Branch Settlement Service, the Canadian Citizenship and Canadian Citizenship Registration Branches and other government agencies, and co-operates closely with several voluntary agencies having the same objective.

INTEGRATION OF POSTWAR IMMIGRANTS*

Immigration to Canada since 1945 approached the two million mark by the end of 1958. Approximately one-third of the immigrants have been of British or French stock, the remainder representing about fifty different ethnic origins. To help the immigrants of so many linguistic and cultural backgrounds adjust to life in Canada has been a major undertaking requiring the joint efforts of the government and of the people generally.

The Citizenship Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is the government agency mainly responsible for the integration of immigrants. The Branch was established in 1941 as the Nationalities Branch of the Department of National War Services, at which time its purpose was to promote better understanding of the various ethnic groups in Canada and to further their contribution to the war effort. In November 1945 the Citizenship Branch was transferred to the Department of the Secretary of State and later became a part of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration when that Department was formed in January 1950. After the War, the Branch directed its attention to the great numbers of immigrants who came to this country, encouraging them to attend language classes and to prepare for Canadian citizenship; and interpreting their needs to the Canadian people, especially to the voluntary organizations that were interested in welcoming and assisting them.

To become a Canadian citizen, the newcomer must have his place of residence in Canada for five years; be able to speak English or French; and must satisfy the court that he has an understanding of the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship. There is no prescribed examination. Each judge determines the form and extent of the examination in his particular court. A British subject ordinarily does not have to appear for examination before a court but otherwise must fulfil the same requirements as an alien.

The primary step in the integration process is to learn the language. Without a knowledge of the language spoken in a community, there can be no real communication with the people who live there and only an inadequate understanding of the laws and customs of the country. The Citizenship Branch, under arrangements with the provincial departments of education, provides free textbooks and pays 50 p.c. of the amount expended by the provinces towards the teaching costs of language classes. Most of the classes are set up and administered by local school boards. Thus, classes have been made available in almost all of the centres where numbers of immigrants have settled. They are usually evening classes held in schoolrooms during the school year.

* Prepared by the Citizenship Branch, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Ottawa.