

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 349 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.

Section 2.—Immigration Statistics

Postwar Immigration.—The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected both by domestic conditions and by conditions abroad. However, these influences are seldom immediately decisive. News of good economic conditions in Canada predisposes people in favour of this country but, because the immigration process usually takes from six to eighteen months, actual immigration is not always fully coincidental with the economic situation, so that immigration may at times be slight in good years but appear unduly heavy in less buoyant periods. The time-lag caused by selection, medical examination and documentation is unavoidable. Transportation is often another delaying factor and to these considerations must be added the effect of seasonal unemployment in Canada, which tends to discourage immigration during the months from November to April.

Since the end of World War II there have been wide annual fluctuations in immigration to Canada caused mainly by economic and political factors. Many of the persons who arrived in 1946 and 1947 were the wives and children of Canadian service men and their numbers were dictated by the availability of shipping. In 1948, as more shipping became available, the number of immigrants doubled. In addition to the large movement from the United Kingdom, thousands of displaced persons were admitted and Germans and Italians began to come forward in appreciable numbers after having been removed from the enemy alien category. As the high level of immediate postwar economic activity levelled off, there was a drop of 30,000 in the number of immigrants entering in 1949 compared with 1948, and a further drop of 20,000 in 1950. Then the outbreak of war in Korea created a new stimulus to industry and caused shortages of labour; at the same time fear of war in Europe made Canada seem a desirable haven. Thus in 1951 immigration increased nearly threefold and remained in excess of 150,000 for the following three years. Very significant numbers of Germans and Italians were admitted and the gap between them and the British Isles group was narrowed. Another minor economic setback in 1954 caused immigration to fall in 1955 by some 45,000 but, with the return of better times in North America and the deterioration of the political situation in Europe, immigration again rose by 55,000 in 1956. The Hungarian revolution and the Suez crisis of 1956 had a sharp impact on Canadian immigration in 1957 when 282,164 persons were admitted, including 31,643 from Hungary and 108,989 from the United Kingdom. This was the largest number of immigrants to enter Canada since 1913. The conclusion of the Suez affair and the suppression of the Hungarian revolt restored some measure of calm in Europe. Canada's economy suffered a recession in 1956 and 1957 while Europe's economic position improved, as a result of which only 124,851 immigrants came to Canada in 1958. The United Kingdom's recovery from the war and its aftermath was reflected in the fact that for the first time in the postwar years the British Isles group of arrivals was not the largest—persons from Italy were in first place, numbering 27,043 compared with 24,777 from the United Kingdom. This situation continued during 1958 and 1959. The total arrivals in these years dropped to 106,928 and 104,111, respectively, and in both years the number from Italy remained in first place above the number from the United Kingdom.