

from the British Isles, 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 21,000 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 British Isles. 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. Britain'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 British Isles. Total arrivals dropped from 106,928 in 1959 to 104,111 in 1960 and to 71,689 in 1961 and during these years the numbers from Italy remained in first place. In 1962 the total number of immigrants increased slightly to 74,586 and immigrants from the British Isles again headed all groups. The main contributing factors to the decline in number of immigrant arrivals after 1958 were: (1) the upsurge in the economies of those European countries from which Canada has received the majority of its immigrants and (2) the increasing emphasis placed on selecting the immigrant who has sufficient funds and the necessary knowledge to establish himself in a business or industry of his own, as well as on the immigrant with special skills or qualifications which would permit his ready integration into the Canadian labour force.

Immigrants coming from the British Isles during the period 1946 to 1962, inclusive, numbered 608,117 and represented 28.3 p.c. of the total immigration to Canada in that period. Other large groups came from: Italy, 287,612 representing 13.4 p.c. of the total; Germany, 246,553 representing 11.4 p.c.; the Netherlands, 150,742 representing 7 p.c.; the United States, 168,284 representing 7.8 p.c.; and Poland, 93,827 representing 4.4 p.c.

Thus, in each postwar year up to and including 1957 and in the year 1962, the British Isles group was the largest, ranging from a low of 12,695 in 1950 to a high of 108,989 in 1957 and from 1958 to 1961 immigrants from Italy headed all groups. Immigrants from the United States formed the second largest group in 1946 and 1947, from Poland in 1948, 1949 and 1950, from Germany from 1951 to 1954, from Italy in 1955, 1956 and 1962, from Hungary in 1957, and from the British Isles from 1958 to 1961. During the whole postwar period, immigration from the United States remained relatively constant, ranging from a low of 7,393 in 1948 to a high of 11,643 in 1962; the annual average for the period was 9,899.

Total immigration to Canada for the years 1946-62, inclusive, was 2,151,505. The yearly totals for this period are shown in Table 1, together with annual figures back to 1913, the peak year of immigration into Canada.