

CHAPTER IV.—IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. xvi of this volume.

PART I.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION*

Section 1.—Immigration Policy and Administration

Policy.—Traditionally, Canada has sought to increase its population through immigration in order to expand the domestic market, reduce per capita costs of administration, stimulate economic activity by providing new skills, ideas and enthusiasm, and support a higher level of cultural independence and creativity. Canadian experience indicates that a substantial volume of immigration is highly desirable.

New population cannot be added haphazardly without regard to their means of subsistence or their effect on Canadian life. Technological change and the development of Canadian society to its present complex state require that, to be able to establish themselves successfully, new settlers must be economically competitive in terms of education, training, skills and personal qualities. Over the years, Canada has endeavoured to acquire immigrants who were adaptable to Canadian life. Such persons, finding familiar institutions in Canada, feel more at home and this assists in their establishment in the new life they find here. Canada makes every effort to sustain the movement of immigrants from countries having like economic, social and political backgrounds. On the other hand, qualified people from other countries can integrate successfully into Canadian society and the immigration Regulations recognize this principle. People anywhere in the world have an opportunity to immigrate to Canada if they demonstrate their suitability for life in this country and are likely to become established without hardship to themselves or disruption to the communities in which they settle.

In addition, Canada has on many occasions since the end of World War II sanctioned the entry of thousands of refugees. This is a humanitarian movement and is tangible evidence of Canada's recognition of its responsibilities in the international community. A conservative estimate of the number of refugees admitted since 1945 is 300,000.

On Oct. 1, 1967, Canada adopted new Immigration Regulations which are to be applied universally; these give more recognition to family relationship than the former Regulations and are more closely attuned to Canada's economic needs. These new

* Sections 1 and 2 of this Part were prepared in co-operation with the Information Service, Department of Manpower and Immigration, Ottawa. The history of immigration and the Immigration Act and Regulations up to the mid-1950s is dealt with in detail in a special article entitled "Developments in Canadian Immigration" appearing in the 1957-58 Year Book at pp. 154-178. Supplementing that material is an article on the "Integration of Postwar Immigrants" at pp. 176-178 of the 1959 edition.