

An Immigration Policy Urged

Canada Is Now Faced With Energetic Competition of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

By CECIL J. YOUNG

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London, Feb. 17.—Evidence on this side of the Atlantic indicates increasingly that the Canadian Government should now declare publicly an immigration policy for the future.

Faced by the energetic competition of Australia, and, to a lesser degree, New Zealand and South Africa, Canada is in imminent danger of becoming a Commonwealth also-ran in the race to attract the best types of settlers that Britain and liberated Europe have to offer.

I can categorically assert that today, as the result of the Federal Government's negligence in this respect, British migration interest in Canada is on the wane.

But the applications being received by Australia are growing in number daily and weekly. The people of Britain — and their attitude is shared in Europe — want a concrete program to study, not the vague promise of future consideration.

Interest Centred In Australia

There was a period when, thanks to the imagination of the Ontario Government and its London office, Canada held the spotlight as the most favoured nation of would-be emigrants. That time has passed.

Australia now tops the list, not entirely because of the opportunities that exist there, but because her Government has drawn up a bold, practical plan by which she will absorb 70,000 vetted settlers annually for about 10 to 20 years.

She is taking the fullest advantage of what may well be the greatest mass migration fever ever to grip Britain and Europe. And with New Zealand and South

Africa at work on similar plans, these countries between them may eventually take all the worthwhile emigrants Britain and Europe can afford to spare.

Will an industrially expanding Canada be content with a small number of "left-overs" or none at all? It is doubly ineffective for the Government to repeat over and over again that it must first see to the total rehabilitation of Canada's servicemen and women.

Australia Seeks Population

Australia likewise committed herself, to this course, but the responsibility did not harden into an excuse for failure to frame an immigration policy that was both consistent with the nation's requirements and the availability of good people. There is not a person in Australia today who could argue that by so doing, she has jeopardized the future of her veterans.

Australia's popularity almost swamped an emigrant-seeking delegation that recently toured Europe and has now set up headquarters in London. In Norway, 115,000 people registered for facilities to go to Australia. Many actually did so while the Germans were still there, in clubs formed by the Resistance Movement.

Even in Switzerland, untouched by the heavy heel of German oppression, applications poured in at the rate of 1,000 per day while the delegation was at Geneva, Berne and Basle. In every country — France, Belgium, Holland, even Denmark — applications were correspondingly heavy.

But in Britain, the pressure is that of an avalanche. And it is from Britain that Australia will get the majority of her new citizens.

What will Canada do?