

## Sniping at Immigration

A lot of nonsense is being talked about immigration and unemployment. In our present situation, there is no connection between the two. The immigrants who have entered Canada since the war have increased, rather than diminished, the amount of work available to Canadians.

More people mean more customers. More customers mean more jobs. Many of the people who have come here during the last six years (not to mention those who came before the war) have provided work not only as customers, but as employers, too. They have founded new businesses, introduced new skills and taught new trades.

Only last week, The Globe and Mail told how a family of Dutch immigrants, who arrived here in 1949, managed through hard work and thrift to buy two bakeries. It told also of an Estonian who in three years has built up a plastic toy business which grosses \$14,000 weekly. There are hundreds of similar cases throughout the Dominion.

The existence of 19,000 unemployed in Toronto, and 193,000 across the nation generally, is no reason to stunt our future growth by keeping out people like this. In a healthy society, there is always a certain amount of unemployment. Certainly, there will always be unemployment so long as men want to pick and choose their kind of work. Many jobs—especially farm jobs—are going begging, simply because nobody is interested in taking them.

Unemployment is admittedly 18,000 higher than it was a year ago. But it is 27,000 lower than it was two years ago. On December 1, 1949, the number of jobless in Canada stood at 220,000. Yet only 95,217 immigrants entered Canada in 1949, as against an estimated 150,000 in 1951. These figures alone should dispel the absurd notion that immigration is responsible for present conditions.

The plain fact is that far from having a surplus of labor, we have a shortage of it—serious in relation to the needs of the present, acute in relation to the needs of the future. An intelligent survey of Canada's manpower situation would show this. The St. Lawrence Seaway development in itself will strain our human resources—let alone all the other developments on which we must base our military and industrial contributions to collective defense. Who honestly thinks that our troops in Europe can be held down to one brigade?

There is a very real reason for the present sniping at immigration—and one that does small credit to the snipers. The immigrant works hard at his job—in some cases, at both his jobs. His attitude is typified by Mr. August Flaums, a Latvian who after only eight months in Canada saved enough money to buy his own watch repair shop. Mr. Flaums told our reporter that he worked twelve hours a day because "you can't accomplish anything in eight."

Canada has ample room for the industrious and enterprising. They will have no trouble finding work for themselves, and in time will provide work for others. There could be no worse stupidity than to raise the bars against them. There could be no greater folly than to "protect" today's jobs by throwing away tomorrow's.