

Many Discouraged

Arrow Decision Seen Cutting Immigration

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Ottawa, Feb. 27—Cancellation of the Arrow program is going to discourage immigration to Canada from the United Kingdom, former immigration minister J. W. Pickersgill told the Commons today.

He was arguing with the claim of Immigration Minister Fairclough that improving economic conditions in Canada justified a more optimistic approach to immigration than was possible during 1958.

Mr. Pickersgill (L, Bonaville-Twillington) said a high proportion of the Avro workers laid off by cancellation of the Arrow program seemed to be postwar immigrants from England.

"I am very much afraid that the blow to confidence that has been given them will result in a good many of these people going home," Mr. Pickersgill said.

He added that Canadian-born Avro workers, eligible for entry to the United States, will go there in numbers Canada will have cause to regret for many years. The others will go back to their home countries discouraged.

The Liberal spokesman also chided Mrs. Fairclough as immigration minister in a government so heavily committed to the Commonwealth for permitting immigration from the United Kingdom to slip into second place behind Italy last year.

"This is not a very proud record," he added.

Because of the time lag in bringing interest in immigration back after it has been discouraged for a time, Mr. Pickersgill said he was unwilling to accept the optimistic forecasts of Mrs. Fairclough.

But the minister, setting out

the general policy for the year ahead, said she was confident economic conditions made more optimistic planning possible.

Un-sponsored immigrants will be carefully selected according to their suitability, Mrs. Fairclough added. They will be counselled about employment and other conditions in Canada.

The minister spoke as the Commons began consideration of her departmental estimates. Her statement came as the department released statistics for the final quarter of 1958 confirming that immigration last year was down to 124,851 persons compared with 282,164 in 1957.

Mrs. Fairclough said the smaller number of arrivals last year made it possible for her department to concentrate on establishing earlier arrivals in continuing employment and to place those un-sponsored 1958 immigrants.

Immigrants who sought the aid of the department during the year purchased 786 farms making down payments totalling \$3,266,500 on a total price of \$10,063,800. This provided for the settlement of 4,132 immigrants including those on 83 rented farms.

In addition other immigrants paid \$5,148,800 for 1,113 small businesses worth \$8,683,000.

Mrs. Fairclough stressed that many other immigrants buy farms or businesses without assistance from the department and therefore are not included in the statistics.