

## THE FIRST GROUP FROM THE AZORES

In São Miguel in March of 1953, it was reported that Canada needed immigrants. I didn't believe it at first, because there had been similar rumours before and none of them had been true. I went to the Immigration Office in Ponta Delgada two days before it closed to register as a candidate . I did it as if I were buying a lottery ticket. My father had died when I was only twelve, and I had twelve brothers and sisters nearly all of them younger than I. How could my mother find the fifteen "contos" that my passage to Canada would cost?

The Immigration Officer, Ferreira da Costa, made us take an examination both oral and written, and chose the twenty who had done best. I was one of them. "Bring a hundred and fifty escudos and come for an X-Ray tomorrow", the inspector said, when my exam was over. "Well, better leave me out", I replied, "and choose someone else to go, because I could never find anyone who could lend me that much money".

The Inspector, who was like a father to me, said he would pay for my X-Ray if it didn't turn out well. So on April 21st. we left for Lisbon where we had to have a medical examination conducted by Canadian doctors. We were twenty young men all from São Miguel and all of us came with a tremendous desire to succeed, and fifteen "contos" in debt.

On the first day of the journey to Lisbon the Inspector asked us to hand over our fifteen "contos", saying that he couldn't let us enter the city with so much money in our pockets. After four days at sea we arrived. We ate and slept for two weeks at Junqueira where the necessary documentation was completed and we had our medical examinations. The day before we embarked for Canada the Inspector made up the bill and handed over to us the equivalent of five "contos" in Canadian dollars.

Manuel Arruda, Toronto

## IF I DIDN'T LIKE IT, I COULD COME BACK

There wasn't much of a tourist trade in Madeira in 1952. I owned a taxi-cab, but business wasn't good, so when Immigration to Canada began in 1953 I went to make inquiries about the