

## ABANDONNED AT THE STATION

We left Lisbon on the 8th of May, 1953 on the *Saturnia*. There were eighteen of us from São Miguel, and sixty seven from mainland Portugal. We disembarked at the port of Halifax on the 13th at midnight. Even though it was so late we were hurried into a train which was going to Montreal. It was a very old coal train, and, when we arrived in Montreal after a two-day journey, we were exhausted and completely black with coal dust. It was raining. We didn't know how to ask for something to eat although we were hungry. I, for one, had only eaten one bread-roll during the two days of train-travel.

Once in Montreal we had to wait for some guides who were supposed to be coming to meet us. Several days went by before a group of six young fellows from Ponta Delgada took me with them as far as Sherbrooke. Three of them were abandoned there at the station. One came from Feteiras and two from Candelária. The police were summoned, as a passerby thought we were fugitives from justice. It was only when they asked for information by means of the radio that a priest was found who had lived in Brazil for many years, and he helped explain the situation.

Manuel Arruda, Toronto.

## MADEIRA MEN TO ESSEX COUNTY

We left Funchal aboard the *Hellas* on 26th of May, 1953. We were 102 "vine workers" from Madeira, at least officially we were vine workers, since I for one had been a member of the police force and only learnt to work among the vines in order to emigrate.

I felt very sick on the voyage, and when we arrived at Halifax on the first of June I was left without one box of Madeira wine. There were even greater surprises to come. As soon as I set foot on land, I went into the city and was impressed by the goods on sale in the store windows. A little later someone came up to beg for money. I said to myself, "I've come to a rich country, and there's someone begging money from me already."