

education, of which I spoke, involves us all. It is not a matter of the new Canadian conforming to an established code set by his predecessors in the country. It is not a question of "we" and "they". All of us are involved in the learning and building process, whether we are the descendants of United Empire Loyalists in New Brunswick, the sons of a French family who came with Montcalm to Quebec, or first generation Italians in Windsor. In this sense the whole country is a schoolroom in which each of us is both pupil and teacher.

There can be no doubt that the Italian-Canadians who form one of the more important cultural entities in Canadian society, have played and continue to play a leading part in this whole process of nation-building that I have been describing. The work of your Association, along with that of other organizations within the Italian community, is evidence of this. It is also revealed in the presence of prominent Canadians of Italian background who are making valuable contributions to the diversity and richness of Canadian society in a wide range of fields from the arts and learning to engineering and government. They are helping to enhance the quality of our life, making Canada a better and more attractive place in which to live. During his recent visit to Italy, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke in the warmest terms of the contributions Canadians of Italian origin are making to Canadian society. The rest of us, of course, are not unmindful of the fact that the Italians have had a head start. For it was John Cabot, that hardy Genoese sailor, who first made his mark in Canada by probing the rocky shores of Cape Breton Island, a part of the country with which I have a passing familiarity.

The presence in Canada of a sizeable and active Italo-Canadian community contributes to a broader Canadian awareness of Italy and its role in the world. For the same reason many citizens of Italy also come to know more about our country and our achievements. This, I think, is to the advantage of both countries. It provides a solid, practical basis for the relations which exist between our two countries. To illustrate what I mean, I wish