

preserving as much as we could of their cultural heritages from the old world. Thus the Ukrainians, for example, are proud to be known as Ukrainian-Canadians, and their contributions to the artistic, as well as the commercial and political life of the prairies has been very valuable. But these new Canadians cut their political ties with Europe when they crossed the Atlantic, and their outlook on life is strictly North American.

I have talked about the three main racial elements - French, British, central European - which go to make up the modern Canadian nation. Each element, of course, has its special qualities, which could hardly be otherwise when you combine such disparate peoples. But nevertheless, there are a number of denominations common to all Canadians, which distinguish us from the Europeans. Some of these characteristics are also common to all the peoples of the Western Hemisphere. Others distinguish Canada from the other countries with which we share this continent.

These are, in the first place, a strong attachment to individual freedom and democracy and a firm rejection of the class system. In addition we have retained the British respect for law and order, and the French love of logic and the arts.

Perhaps the most important element in forming the Canadian character is, however, the North. Even in Colombia there is a difference between the Bogotano and the Barranquillero. Climate does change a race. Our long, hard winters have a sobering effect on the people. It means, to start with, that we have to work twice as hard as the Texan, say, in order to earn the same living. And the lack of sun makes us more dour and less demonstrative than the southerners.

Finally there is the psychological effect of the vast, unbelievably huge wilderness of ice and snow and tundra which covers the Arctic part of the country, and the huge and often unpopulated distances, even in the south, create a feeling of loneliness and melancholy. This makes the Canadian self-reliant, but often also undemonstrative and silent. And this has little to do with race. It is something inherited from the environment.

I think I might quote some passages from "The Unknown Country", a book by Bruce Hutchinson, which attempts to explain the curious complex which is Canada. "My country", he wrote, "is hidden in the dark and teeming brain of youth upon the eve of its manhood. My country has not found itself, nor felt its power nor learned its true place. It is all visions and doubts and hopes and dreams. It is strength and weakness, despair and joy, wild confusions and restless striving.... Who can know our loneliness, on the immensity of prairie, in the dark forest and on the windy sea rock?