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CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

A PEACEABLE KINGDOM?



Canada Today/D'aujourd'hui sees its role as trying to explore Canada in eight to sixteen pages once a month or so — a limitation which certainly gives some perspective to the effort. Generally, it has struck us that the best way to do it appears to be in bits, hoping they'll all add up to more. Sometimes, though, we're compelled to put aside "well-on-the-other-hands" and "better-nothing-than-be-glibs," and print somebody's sweeping oversight. The following is one such — part of an essay by William Kilbourn introducing a book called *Canada: A Guide to the Peaceable Kingdom* (1970, Macmillan of Canada, Toronto). Duncan Macpherson's illustrations in this story are reprinted with permission from *Macpherson's Canada* (1969, Toronto Daily Star). Any choppiness in this text comes from heavy cutting for space.

The title of this book was chosen to suggest that it would serve as a travel companion for explorers of the Canadian spiritual landscape. But the title also hints at something else: the astonishing notion that this two-cultured, multi-ghettoed, plural community, this non-nation, 'this wind that lacks a flag', this Canada of ours, might be a guide to other peoples who seek a path to the peaceable kingdom. The 'child of nations, giant-limbed', as Sir Charles G. D. Roberts called it back in Laurier's day, may even have grown up, no longer ungainly, no longer immature, ready at last to be a father to a few of the world's lost and aban-

doned children and a brother to all mankind.

In the 1970's there is a new urgency to Canadian nationalism that it did not possess before. Things have changed so fast, so recently. In the past to be a patriot in Canada has often been a bit pointless — as official as a Centennial Commissioner, as silly as that hundred-per-cent CBC listener whose favourite program was the Dominion Observatory Official Time Signal. The new sense of conviction and purpose to Canadian nationalism derives in part, of course, from strong feelings about the direction of American society. These feelings certainly add substance to the