

doesn't fit the facts of twentieth century life. Even if we got fifty million, the US would have five hundred million. Canada will always be a small country.

A COUNTRY OF IRONIES

The conception of Canada as a country of ironies — for example, Margaret Atwood's concept of the loser as hero — does identify, I think, a certain quality of Canadian writing that is worth looking at. Mackenzie King was a loser, but he was the incarnation of the kind of compromise that you have to keep making to hold the country together. . . . If Canada had not been able to compromise, it would never have been Canada.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TECHNOLOGY

Two things, the airplane and television, are beginning to make sense of the country. Now it is possible for Canadians to become simultaneously conscious of the rest of the country in a way that was never possible before. It makes for a considerable quieting down of the separatism which has been such an active movement in every part of the country.

ECONOMIC DOMINATION

I suppose that almost every industry in Canada is a subsidiary of an American industry, so that the great masses of the working population are in effect American employees. I don't suppose there is a great difference in working in a refinery in Canada or one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. But I think the higher up you go, the more you are aware that the real orders come from somewhere else, and there comes a point at which that becomes very oppressive.

NATIONALISM

I have much more sympathy with economic nationalism than I have with cultural nationalism, which seems to be a substitute activity. I don't think the Canadian writer is threatened; that's why I think the question of cultural domination is partly phony. It's a matter of understanding the potential of your own environment.

THE CANADIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

I sat on the CRTC for some years, and the CRTC is really putting up a very gallant fight to keep

control of our communication systems, so they won't become just a branch of NBC and CBS. You know when all the magazine business, all the book business, all the movie business and so forth have already been sold, it's a pretty desperate, last ditch struggle.

Hugh MacLennan

"If people would stop comparing Canadian literature, to its inevitable detriment, to Shakespeare and Racine, but would think of it solely in terms of the current international competition, I don't honestly see much reason for pessimism."

Lula Beatrice Wilken



WRITER ALAN EDMONDS of *The Canadian Magazine* went looking for "The Little Old Lady in Moose Jaw" and found Lula Beatrice Wilken. The LOLIMJ is a symbol of the down-to-earth, average person, a bit like the Kansas City Milk Man or the New Yorker's celebrated Little Old Lady in Dubuque. Mrs.

Wilken was a splendid find. She is eighty and she lives in a one-bedroom apartment in the north end of town. Moose Jaw is forty-four miles west of Regina, Saskatchewan and has a population of some thirty-two thousand. She is lively as a cricket, and she has a mind all her own:

THE UNITED STATES

Oh! That Watergate did them good. I hope it did anyway — should make them realize that the great American way isn't automatically the right way. They figure that one day they're going to own Canada and they're not far off it now:

The Americans went ahead faster than us because they have the climate, a twelve-month season, while we have to fight the elements.

THE TROUBLE WITH CANADIANS

The trouble with Canadians is that we haven't got enough confidence. We think we can't do as well as others. We see ourselves as losers. I really don't know where it ever came from in the first place. But then again, I'm mad at the government for educating our kids on American books.