

The Loyalists were mostly already Americans for several generations. Their principal differences from those Americans who remained south of the Great Lakes lay in their political outlook. In psychology they were people of the New World, but coming largely from the upper and upper middle classes, they had looked with suspicion on the Revolution. They were monarchists, in part because of loyalty to the British Crown, in part because they feared that the establishment of a republic would bring disastrous social consequences.

Thus the pattern of thinking in Canada was set in a strongly conservative mold, both in French and in English Canada for the next 100 years. But the attachment to the crown did not imply to these people any less attachment or loyalty to Canada. There just seemed to be no contradiction in the two so far as they were concerned.

It has been said that the two most characteristic influences in forming the Canadian personality have been Scottish and French. There are, of course, very many people in Canada of Scottish origin, and in some parts, particularly in the Maritime Provinces, this element is predominant, even to the extent of still speaking the Gaelic language. But it was not so much their numbers as their character which influenced our national make-up. The Scots came from a cold and difficult country, and they found themselves at home in Canada. Their habits of frugality, hard-work, obstinacy, ambition, piety, and at the same time love of the arts and education, proved ideal for the new country, and these characteristics have helped to form all of us in this mold. In education, for example, we have tended in English Canada to follow the Scottish model. Indeed for many generations the educational system proved superior to the needs of the country, and thousands of university graduates had to go south to the United States, since their own country could not absorb the annual out-put from the colleges. Someone indeed has compared Canada with United States in this respect, to the relationship of Scotland to England.

Finally, there is in Canada the important racial element from the rest of Europe. At the end of the nineteenth century, they began coming to the great prairie provinces and the new industrial cities - Ukrainians and Germans predominantly, but also in large numbers Scandinavians, Dutch, Belgians, Poles, Italians, Hungarians. And this immigration is continuing, averaging about 120,000 a year since the end of the war, including nearly 30,000 Hungarians in their recent escape from Communist oppression.

Our approach to immigration has been different from that of the United States melting-pot theory. We could not really accept that idea if the concept of a bi-lingual and bi-racial state were to continue. We have, therefore, attempted to assimilate the new elements, at the same time