



The Citizen

Mr. Schreyer (left), accompanied by Prime Minister Trudeau, makes his way to the Senate Chamber for the installation ceremony on January 22.

spiritual tolerance and material progress that come with a larger unity.

To this, I must add the bringing to this new land, first to the Atlantic and then the central provinces, much more than a century ago, of British parliamentary institutions and English common law and jurisprudence. The stability and magnanimity of the English-speaking peoples who came to these shores is another great stream of our history.

But in the confluence of these two great streams that have shaped our Canadian character must surely be seen the force of two additional tributaries adding to the majestic flow of our culture and civilization. One is, of course, our brothers and sisters, Inuit and Indian. They constitute a group of Canadians who are caught between their traditional ways and contemporary opportunities. Whichever course they choose will bring grave difficulties, for those involved, for those working with them.

The other stream is that multiplicity of groups that chose Canada or whose ancestors chose Canada. I know their contribution to Canada. The ethnic mosaic has made for a more colourful and interesting Canadian way of life. Those who make up this mosaic share the goal of retaining the clarity of that mosaic, for in the clarity of

their cultural distinctiveness lies its beauty.

#### Experience of adversity

There is also shared experience — the shared experience of adversity. Whether we think of the earliest *habitants*, or the *coureurs des bois*; of the United Empire Loyalists of Upper Canada or the Maritimes; whether we think of the Scottish fur traders of the northwest, or that incredibly small pocket of English and French-speaking settlers known as the Red River Colony at the Fort Garies and the St. Boniface Mission; whether it be the Icelandic-speaking settlers after 1870 or German-speaking Mennonites and Hutterites at the same time — one the victim of nature, the other of human persecution; whether it be central European immigrants pulling their belongings across the untilled Prairies by sheer physical exertion or the frustration of the Indian and Métis fearing the loss of hunting grounds, and the coming of malnutrition, pestilence and disease — in all this history — one word stands out — adversity. Our problems of today are as nothing. To succumb to pessimism, to allow fragmentation, to accept the shattering of the Canadian mosaic is to break faith with all who endured so much to build so well what we have today.

What we have today can be secured if we remind ourselves of some self-evident truths spoken by a Canadian of venerable years but still active among us. He said, the truth is that Confederation was conceived of by men of two different but equally rich communities. Bilingualism and multiculturalism are facts of Canadian life; they cannot be avoided nor should they for they are assets, not liabilities; positive factors, not negative ones.

#### Sharing riches of diversity

But there is also a need to speak for all of Canada. It is what we share that allows us the richness of our diversity and we need to remind ourselves of this whenever we become preoccupied with our differences. As we shape present policies we preserve the necessary options for future generations of all Canadians.

What I believe many people earnestly hope for is not merely the toleration of our differences, but the realization that to be a good Canadian each of us must be true to his or her heritage. This noble sentiment was eloquently expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he said:

“Three years ago when in England, I visited one of those models of gothic architecture, which the hand of genius, guided by an unerring faith, had moulded into an harmonious whole. This cathedral was made of granite, oak and marble. It is the image of the nation I wish to see Canada become. For here, I want the granite to remain the granite, the oak to remain the oak, the marble to remain the marble. Out of these elements I would build a nation great among the nations of the world.”



After five years in office, former Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger wave fond farewell. They flew to London for a brief visit with the Queen.

What Sir Wilfrid Laurier clearly believed, what he shared with others, with Sir John A. MacDonald, with Brown, with Blake, with Sir George Etienne Cartier, what they share with my predecessors and with me, is that a diverse society in a vast land can experience a broadening of the mind and spirit — a magnanimity of the soul. Their idealistic dream has become almost the full reality. We need but work together to avoid slipping backward towards the fragmentation of intolerance.

Today I say with the deepest conviction that we can do this. Within 50 years, a moment in the sweep of history, our Canada has gone from aloofness, to tolerance, and beyond tolerance to respect for, indeed a deep desire for, the retention of the differentiations of our heritage and culture.

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