

climate, has always commanded the respect of those who have tried to master it."

C. D. Howe

"I believe that those who are prepared to share with Canadians in the risks of developing our country should be as free as Canadians themselves in deciding how to conduct their enterprise. Nevertheless, anyone who does business in Canada should reckon with the . . . normal feeling of nationalism which is present in Canada, just as it is in the United States." (1957)

Captain J. E. Bernier

claimed the Arctic Archipelago for Canada on July 1, 1909. "I took possession of Baffin Island for Canada in the presence of several Eskimo, and after firing nineteen shots I instructed an Eskimo to fire the twentieth, telling him he was now a Canadian."

Northrop Frye



BORN IN SHERBROOKE, Quebec in 1912, is one of Canada's most distinguished literary critics and perceptive thinkers. He is the author of *Fearful Symmetry: A Study of William Blake*, *Anatomy of Criticism* and *T. S. Eliot*. He was recently a visiting professor at Harvard and is currently University

Professor in the English Department of the University of Toronto. In an interview last spring, he talked about a variety of things and, most particularly, about the ways in which Canadians and Americans are not alike:

POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

Every once in a while [a Canadian in the US] realizes he is in a foreign country. When I was first faced with the question, I thought: my religious affinities at the moment are the United Church of Canada, and my political affinities at the moment are CCF.* These were two categories I could never translate into American terms. The boundary has a reality in the Canadian mind of which the American has no conception. In Canada you hear the phrase, 'across the line,' to describe America. I've never heard an American say, 'across the line.'

I think the greatest source of misunderstanding by Americans is the assumption that the two

countries are essentially the same — that there have not been enough differences in historical cultural development to make Canadians a separate people.

The two countries have had different rhythms of aggressiveness. There has been a great deal of aggressive violence in American history, whereas the violence in Canadian history has been imposed from the top — the military conquest of French Canada, the western police.

In Canada, it has never taken the form of the elimination of dissident elements. Canada has managed to avoid things like Indian wars.

The United States became articulate in the eighteenth century, the Age of Reason, and it's had a fixation on the eighteenth century ever since. The Constitution begins by saying we hold these facts to be self-evident. Canada is a country where nothing has been self-evident and it didn't have an eighteenth century at all. The English and the French spent the eighteenth century battering down each other's forts. Canada took shape in the baroque, aggressive seventeenth century and took new shape in the romantic, aggressive nineteenth.

I often run into people from the US who come to Canada and who haven't the remotest notion of the kind of unconscious arrogance they have as people among colonials. I have often said Canada is the only real colony left in the world. It is now an American colony.

THE YOUNG

American students are much more frank in talking about their personal problems. Americans also ask me about my own personal views or beliefs — political or religious beliefs — much more freely. Canadians are much shyer and more reserved.

I have a great affection for American students, but young people who have been conditioned from infancy as citizens of a great world power are not the same people as young Canadians.

POPULATION

I think that people think in terms of empty space in Canada, but the empty space is not so easy to fill up. The people who come to Canada mostly head for Montreal and Toronto. The increase in population is going to be substantially in the very places that don't need it. The whole fantasy about the great open spaces — that there ought to be a hundred million people here — just

* Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. A socialist amalgam primarily of farmers and intellectuals which flourished in the thirties and forties; it is now called the New Democratic Party.