



year; at these, farm produce and farming skills are judged, and livestock entered in competition. The annual Calgary Stampede, which combines pageantry with vigorous competition, reflects the life of the western ranches.

The lives of Canadians are strongly affected by the distinctive environment in which they live. In all seasons they are drawn to the open country, to the lakes and rivers, woods and mountains, of their vast land. For a surprisingly large income group, the summer cottage, owned or rented, is a cherished institution. In summertime, Canadians are especially fond of camping, and the more intrepid pack tents and spend vacations in exploration of the hinterland; they emulate the native Indians in their handling of canoes, in their mastery of wilderness conditions, in their hunting and fishing skills. Almost as soon as a child can walk, he takes to skates and sleigh; skiing and ice-hockey are popular winter pastimes from coast to coast and young and old alike are absorbed in following the fortunes of local and national hockey teams. Football in the autumn, and baseball in spring and summer, arouse equally keen interest, and more individual pursuits, such as golf and sailing, bowling and tennis, are widely enjoyed.

Although the responsibility for public welfare rests traditional-

ly with the provinces, the federal government has become increasingly active in this field, enacting legislation (implemented in co-operation with provincial offices) such as old age pensions and pensions for the blind; and carrying out programmes which are purely federal responsibilities, like the family allowances plan. The Family Allowances Act was passed in 1944 to promote equality of opportunity for the children of Canada, through the provision of monthly cash payments for all children under the age of sixteen. The government also encourages and supports provincial programmes of physical fitness and recreational development under the National Physical Fitness Act. Unemployment Insurance, Prairie Farm Assistance, and Veterans' Affairs are other social security concerns of the federal government, and for the year ending March 31, 1949, Parliament appropriated approximately \$30,000,000 for grants to the provinces for health services and hospital construction.

A lively response to environment, a capacity to assimilate and blend different cultural forces, and the assumption that diversity offers no threat to national unity—these are the materials of a strong Canadian nationhood.

opposite:
The modern Mountie
and his equipment.

Spruce and hemlock engulf
an abandoned Indian totem pole
on the Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.

