



"Passing Rain" by Elizabeth Wyn Wood, R.C.A.

CANADIAN WRITING

Canadian writers, both in French and in English, have won prominence not only within Canada but also abroad. Literature of merit in the English language began to appear early in the nineteenth century. One of the first North American humorists was a Canadian—Thomas Haliburton. His satirical *Sam Slick of Slickville*, and later in the nineteenth century the historical romances of Kirby, Mrs. Leprohon and Sir Gilbert Parker, marked the debut of Canadian fiction in English. These works, however, were more the reflection of foreign traditions than genuinely Canadian.

More rooted in Canada was the poetry of the eminent group of lyricists toward the end of the century: Charles G. D. Roberts, Archibald Lampman, Bliss Carman and Duncan Campbell Scott, who sang the praises of Canadian nature. More homely and simple was the writing of William Drummond. The lusty frontier ballads of Robert Service, the most famous of which is *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, reflected another aspect of pioneer Canada. Today the themes of Canadian poetry have become more varied in both personal impression and social content. This applies particularly to the work of such writers as E. J. Pratt, Earle Birney and Dorothy Livesay.

Canadian Theatre—Fridolin, favourite French-speaking comedian.



Writer John Coulter and composer Healey Willan rehearse their opera "Deirdre of the Sorrows" for broadcast.

Stephen Leacock made a real contribution to the humorous literature of the language. His *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* is read and enjoyed throughout the world. More recently in the field of fiction, the *Jalna* series of Mazo de la Roche and the novels of Frederick Philip Grove and Morley Callaghan have brought honour to Canadian letters. Many Canadian historians have been able to combine a mastery of detailed research with a genuine talent for literary expression. This can be seen in such books as Wrong's *The Canadians*, Creighton's *Dominion of the North* and Wittke's *A History of Canada*.

Currently, the work of three Canadians writing in English is winning a wide measure of popularity and critical favor: Gwethalyn Graham's *Earth and High Heaven*, Hugh MacLennan's *Two Solitudes* and Bruce Hutchison's *The Unknown Country*.

The modern French literary tradition in Canada was founded by Octave Crémazie, followed by Louis Fréchette and his associates. Prominent in the present century are the poets Alain Grandbois and Alfred Desrochers, the historians Lionel Groulx and Thomas Chapais, the folklorist Marius Barbeau and the novelists Robert Charbonneau, Germaine Guévremont and Ringuet (Dr. Philippe Panneton).

Manitoba Musical Festival, Winnipeg.

