

Over thirty per cent of the population are Canadians of French stock. They have almost all sprung from the French colonists who remained in Canada when it came under British rule in 1763. Although nearly a million of them now live in other parts of Canada, most of them are in the province of Quebec. Here they have retained a distinct way of life which is guaranteed and respected by the nature of the Canadian federation. The French element of the Canadian people continues to maintain a high degree of homogeneity and cohesion.

The third segment of the population came to Canada largely with the wave of settlement which swept over the West during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Today, people of Ukrainian, Scandinavian, German, Dutch, and Polish origin make up nearly one-fifth of the Canadian population. They are concentrated mainly in the Prairie Provinces. Although quick to adopt Canadian habits, members of this group also retain much of their cultural heritage: Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, publishes newspapers in 23 different languages.

In religion too, Canadian life is characterized by the same diversity. About forty per cent of the population are Roman Catholics. Canadians of French stock constitute close to two-thirds of these. The second largest religious group is the United Church of Canada (formed in 1925 by the union of Canadian Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists), and the third, the Church of England. In point of numbers, Presbyterians, Baptists and Lutherans rank next.

Numerous other faiths, including Jewish Greek-Orthodox and Mormon, are found across the country. A few sects, the Doukhobors, Hutterites and Mennonites, who came to Canada in order to escape religious persecution, have settled in separate communities for the stricter observance of their faith.



High mass at Notre Dame Church, Montreal.



Sunday morning in a Canadian town.



The story begins nearly 1,000 years ago—with a storm at sea. Leif Erikson, a Norseman sailing from Norway to Greenland, was blown wide of his course and sighted the Canadian coast. Various Norse colonies were established on the mainland during the next three centuries, but disappeared entirely in the fourteenth century, when the existence of the continent lapsed into legend.

Following the quest of Columbus for a western route to the markets of the Orient, John Cabot, sailing from Bristol in 1497, set foot on Newfoundland and possibly on Cape Breton Island and claimed the territory for England. His glowing report, that "the sea is covered with fishes which were caught not only with the net but in baskets", brought the fishing-fleets of Europe to the rich cod-banks lying off the east coast.

#### NEW FRANCE

Jacques Cartier, a Breton explorer, founded New France in 1534 with the planting of a cross at Gaspé Harbour. Cartier also discovered the great northern gateway to the continent—the St. Lawrence River. Barter with the native Indians laid the foundation for a fur trade that became immensely important and profitable to France.

The first permanent French settlements were founded by Samuel de Champlain, explorer and trader, beginning in 1604. The first was Port Royal in Nova Scotia. Later, on a site commanding the passage up the St. Lawrence, Quebec was founded in 1608. Although only eight of the original settlers survived the first winter, the colony remained, and Quebec became the hub of French expansion in North America.

Champlain pushed forward into the unknown hinterland for almost twenty-five years. In a vain search for the northwest passage to Asia, he reached Georgian Bay, where he established friendship with the Huron Indians, who became allies of the French.

Settlement advanced slowly from Quebec. Three Rivers was founded in 1634, and Montreal in 1642. A fresh outbreak of war between the Iroquois and the Hurons seriously involved the French settlements, which were dependent on their fur trade with the Hurons. The Hurons were massacred and the economic basis of the colony crumbled.

The Jesuit missions, key outposts of French influence, were in ashes throughout Huronia; many missionary fathers, including the saintly Brébeuf, were cruelly martyred. Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec itself were menaced by the attacking Iroquois. New France fought for its life.

This perilous situation was met with a new colonial policy for Canada introduced by Colbert, the brilliant first minister of Louis XIV. Royal Government was established in the colony in 1663, ending the rule of the chartered fur trading companies. Vigorous military aid from France, coupled with skilful diplomacy, brought peace with the Iroquois and won back the Acadian (Nova Scotian) settle-

Replica of Champlain Habitation, 1605, Nova Scotia.

#### GROWTH OF THE NATION

