

A YEAR FOR CANADA'S YOUTH

The following new year's message was issued by the Prime Minister:

Happy new year, 1971. The centennial of British Columbia; the 104th year of Confederation; the 178th year since Alexander Mackenzie crossed the continent to reach the Pacific by land; the 299th year since Dollier and Galinée penetrated inland as far as Sault Ste. Marie; the 395th year since Martin Frobisher sailed into the Bay of Baffin Island that bears his name; the 436th year since Jacques Cartier ascended the St. Lawrence as far as Montreal.

These dates all mark significant events in Canadian history. They remind us that this land of ours has a long and colourful past, one rich with the contributions of daring English and French explorers whose names and feats are familiar to all of us: Champlain, Hudson, La Vérendrye, Henday, Fraser, and scores of others. By no historic measurement can we claim that Canada is a young land; nearly 500 years have passed since John Cabot sighted Newfoundland.

Yet if there is one characteristic that is common to Canadians, it is that we think of Canada as a young country. I hope we always shall. To be young is to be full of hope and imagination and vigour. To be young is to be confident; it is also to be questioning and concerned.

These are the characteristics of Canada and Canadians. From coast to coast there are millions of persons of all ages in this country who think and act in youthful terms. Many Canadians are, of course, young. On them we rely for a bold and satisfying future for our land.

A GOOD YEAR FOR CHANGE

Some of the children in Canada are descendants of our original Canadians — our Indians and Eskimos. Their childhood has not been an enviable one, nor is it now. Infant mortality rates are high, standards of health care and education low. They have suffered from intolerance and discrimination. These conditions and attitudes, fortunately, are changing; 1971 should be a good year to change them considerably more.

Canada can be what our children wish of it if we do not deprive them first of their normal childhood instincts; their active curiosity; their friendly nature; their natural tolerance; their desire to learn and to create. If we permit our children to share with us their vitality, we shall feel within us that Canada can be as exciting and as human a country as we wish it to be. If we look into the eyes of children and see others with their help, we will notice many conditions in Canada that must be changed: poverty, ignorance, discrimination. But we shall also identify many other traits that we want to preserve because they contribute to the kind of Canada we desire — basic attitudes of compassion and tolerance and openness.

In 1971, let us look at the children of Canada;

let us help every child live a rich and fulfilling life; let us assist them in preserving Canada as a young and challenging country.

I wish all of you a happy and fulfilling new year, but especially do I wish these things for our children — the descendants of those brave and dedicated men who opened up this country and gave it to us to do with it as we would.

CHANGE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. George McIlraith, Solicitor General of Canada, resigned from the Cabinet on December 22 for personal reasons; he had undergone two eye operations during 1970. In a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, Mr. McIlraith stated that he looked forward to continuing to make his "contribution as a private member" in the House of Commons.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, who for the first two years of the current Parliament served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has been named by the Prime Minister as Mr. McIlraith's successor.

NATIONAL COACHING ASSOCIATION

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, recently announced the formation of a national association of sports coaches to be known as the Coaching Association of Canada.

The organization, which has been given the approval and support of the Federal Government, will be eligible for assistance under the Sports Administration Aid program and will receive an initial grant of \$15,000. Its offices will be situated in Ottawa.

Harold Rea, chairman of the Task Force on Sports for Canadians, will be chairman of the new association's board of directors. The executive director will be John Hudson, one of Canada's leading track and field coaches. Several Canadian sports authorities, including Lloyd Percival, president of the Fitness Institute of Toronto, will be involved in the new organization.

The main purposes of the new body will be to promote coaching in all sports and at all levels of participation; to establish a code of ethics and professional standards for coaching in Canada and to provide program guide-lines, resource materials and liaison with related groups in medicine, research and physical fitness testing.

Mr. Munro said that almost every brief submitted to the Government in recent years had stressed the need for a strong, national coaches' association and a system of certification to develop competence in coaching at all levels.

The Minister said that the association would give top priority to early development of a national training plan for coaches in all sports and at all levels of proficiency. Membership in the association, he added, would be open to every coach in Canada.