BRUNSWICKAN February 28, 1963

CANADA – U.S.A. UNION TERMED ESCAPISM

tory, U.N.B.

Historians find it difficult to neighbor to the north. deal with the word "inevitable." Absorbed in fashioning explana- the United States would encourtions or why a particular event age or even welcome a political have invariably been seen not as took place at a particular point merger of the two countries. In- realities in the making but as in time, a word such as "inevit- deed, there is far more in the possibilities in becoming. able" is likely to sound like an history of the last century and a oversimplification if not a pro- half to suggest quite the con-fanity. Prognostication falls into trary — that the United States is the same category and tends to in no way opposed to the existevoke a reaction of inward brist- ence of a strong friendly neighling. My answer to your ques- bor, independent and democratic fluences but committed to no tion, therefore, may well be ting- on its northern border. ed by an historian's way of viewing things. I personally see scant est on this side of the border in likelihood of the United States the question of North American and Canada joining together in political union is a more complex any kind of formal political un- task. Explanations couched in ion. There is hardly anything in terms of Canada's present ecothe Canadian or American past nomic problems can only go so to suggest the existence of a far. Much more involved, as I strong undercurrent running in see it, is something that can be such a direction. One can only called a deep-seated Canadian assume that this question is re- malaise. By this I mean the exlated to the present sense of frus- istence of a general attitude which tration which Canada is exper- has tended to prefer the splendid iencing in forging a proper role contemplation of the possibilities for itself in the face of shifting of Canada to a wrestling with and uncertain world trade pat- the realities of Canada's past and terns.

you have posed is far more widely the United States is an illustration discussed here in Canada than it of what I mean. It represents is in the United States. The fre- an escape mechanism at play here quent - and quite correct - Ca- - preoccupation with contemnadian criticism of American in- plating the future, the what-mightdifference towards and unaware- be, instead of a coming to terms ness of Canada and things Ca- with past and present. nadian may partially explain this As a result of their history, Ca-

To explain the current interpresent. The mere formulation It strikes me that the question of the question of affiliation with

dispanity. Certainly there is nadians have had a great many little in the popular press in the possibilities to contemplate. United States on this question and Looking successively to France,

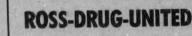
Question: "Do you believe that it less by way of public discussion Great Britain, and the United is inevitable that Canada or debate. And I would find it States, Canada has been overand the U.S.A. join poli-tically?" difficult even to imagine that whelmed by a plethora of possi-tically?" film show on Friday, March the 1st in the there are many Americans sitting bilities, of models on which to p.m. The following films will be shown: Reply: By Thomas J. Condon, Assistant Professor of His-Assistant Professor of His- just the right moment to pounce ional identity. Tempting, too, for upon their unsuspecting good contemplation have been such

> In a sense the bill of fare has been too tempting and too rich, and Canada has leaned now towards one model and now towards another. Accepting all ina love-hate ambivalence towards

each of the models individually. Accompanying this has been a sharply mounting sense of apprehension that the opportunity for creating a truly distinctive nat- the evening. So come toional identity may have been lost somewhere along the byways of history

the degree to which Canada has real neglect of the latter. approached or departed from any given model. Writers have tended to dwell overlong on the in- ample, in an attempt to demonfluences to which Canada has by its history been subjected and not long enough on the way in which the people and geography of Canada have combined and transferred with great subtlety these imported influences.

It has somehow seemed easier for writers to deplore the peculiar historical and geographical cir-cumstances that have forced Canada to look south and east than to probe intensely into the



UNB INDIA ASSOCIATION FILM SHU

Under the auspices of the India Association there will be a film show on Friday, March the 1st in the Tartan Room, at 7:30

1. "Vadya Vrind" or Feast of Musical Instruments. This film was made in response to a request from the British Broad-casting Corporation for Television. Intended as an introduction to Indian music for a non-Indian audience, the role of the major instruments comprising the orchestra - violins, sarangi, sarod, There is little to suggest that wealth, Biculturalism, and Con- mantra bahar, veena, flutes, and the percussion instruments-tabla,

federation. These abstractions have invariably been seen not as realities in the making but as the picturesque Kashmir Valley, and the handicrafts of the people which in beauty of artistic conception and execution vie with the best traditions of the world.

3. "A Village in Travancore": Pictures the life of a family in a village in the southern end of India. Their work and their beliefs, their joys and sorrows, the intensity and restraint of their love—are vividly presented. 4. The Fable of the Peacock: Shows the surpassing beauty

of the Peacock-dance. The peacock dances to captivate its mate. This sight will make your hearts dance with the peacock. Girls who are easily susceptible to the charms of the male should not see this film.

Remember, you are cordially invited whether you are a member of the India Association or not. Be sure to come-you will enjoy

> THE TARTAN ROOM at 7:30 p.m. on FRIDAY, MARCH 1st.

have influenced the development North American history. Like which the present generation of of Canada. And yet Canada is the United States, Canada really writers and students is pursuing not simply one of these models has two histories. One is the this question. As I see it, the "writ small," nor even the sum history of a colonial relationship, answer cannot be found in chasof them. Canada is something its connection with Great Bri- ing after such unreal questions as else. It is not a new France in tain or France. The other is the whether Canada should annex it-America. Nor is Canada a Brit- history of Canada's development self to the United States or ish America. But far too often as a new nation in the community whether the United States would explanations of what Canada is of nations. Far too much has accept Canada if it did. This is have been fashioned in terms of been written of the former to the escapism. Rather will the ans-

> Much has been written, for exstrate that in the constitutional crisis of 1776 within the empire that the Loyalist position of Canada was right and the independent position of the United States was wrong. And yet for all the ink which has been spilled over this, it remains essentially an unreal question. There is no right way to national self-determination. Each nation must find its own way and pay its own price. And yet in belaboring this question and others, study has been deflected away from the far more pertinent questions about the actual institutional development of Canada.

Thus despite the many excel-

To be sure all of these models nature of its own history - its attested by the intensity with wer be found by tackling with intellectual vigor and candor a critical self-analysis to determine how the many influences which have in.pinged upon Canada have been distilled into something called Canadian.





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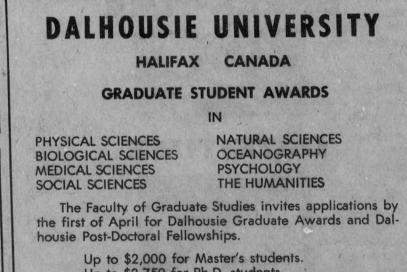
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lent histories of Canada that have been written, the single, most perplexing question still remains of what is Canada? The unsatisfactory nature of the answers thus far given is amply

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