



THE PEOPLE

Geographical position and historical background have combined to impart to Canadians certain distinctive and, they believe, recognizable national characteristics. While they are typically of the New World, they have not completely cut their formal ties with the Old. Canadians do not think of themselves as Europeans, nor do they call themselves Americans. They differ from both, while having something in common with each.

An observant visitor notices several things about Canada and its people. He notices that in dress and manner they are generally North American and that their newspapers, sports events and entertainments are strongly influenced by those of the United States. He also notices that many of their institutions are British in character and that the appellation "Royal" is frequently used in naming a yacht club, a theatre, a ballet company or a military unit.

He notices something else. Canada is a country of two main languages and cultures. Packaged goods in daily household use bear instructions in both French and English. Banknotes, stamps and government documents are printed in both languages. The business of the Senate, the House of Commons and the federal courts is conducted bilingually. This Anglo-French relationship is a fundamental aspect of life in Canada.