



of the members made their speeches in French. And didn't I see signs in some streets printed in both French and English? Why is that?"

The Simpsons explained that in the beginning Canada was founded by two main European families, the French and the British, who both shared in its development. He learned about the first French settlements in Nova Scotia (1603) and Quebec (1608) by Samuel de Champlain, and about the later arrival of the Scottish and English in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and other parts of the Atlantic seaboard.

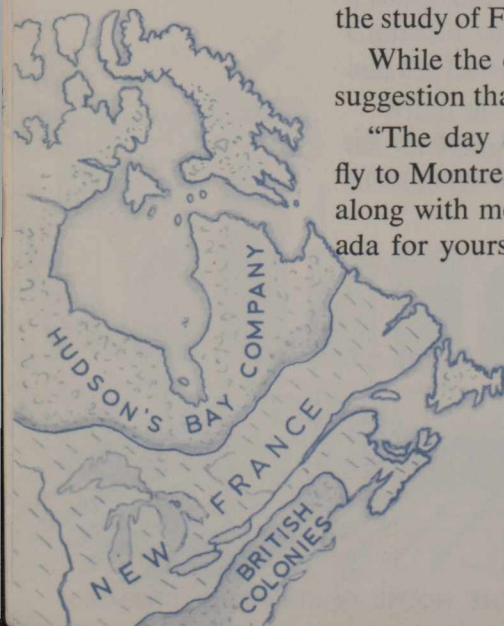
The European wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries affected the lives of the two groups of settlers in the new country until, in 1759, the British fought and defeated the French in a final battle on the Plains of Abraham outside Quebec City. But French Canadians were granted the right to retain their own language, laws and religion, as they have done to the present day. In 1867, when Canada became a self-governing country, French and English were proclaimed the two official languages of the new nation.

So Paul understood then why there are French and English signs in Canada's capital.

"But I don't see many signs like that here in Toronto," said Paul. "Can you both speak French?" Douglas and Betty nodded, saying that special attention was given to the study of French in their school.

While the children were talking, Mr. Simpson made a suggestion that pleased everyone.

"The day after tomorrow," he told them, "I have to fly to Montreal on a business trip. Suppose I take you all along with me? You could then see a bit of French Canada for yourself, Paul, and I think we could make time



EUROPEAN SPHERES
END OF 17th century

