

The Canadian Centennial in Ireland

A CANADIAN representative living in Dublin soon becomes aware of the close ties between Canada and Ireland, and notices that there is a great awareness of Canada in this country. Perhaps this is not surprising, because almost every Irish family seems to have its own ties with Canada, generally in the shape of a relative who has emigrated to make his life in the New World. (At the time of Confederation, the Irish were the largest English-speaking group in Canada.)

The especially close relations between the Governments and people of Canada and Ireland contributed greatly to the regret felt by the Irish Government when they announced that, for financial reasons, they were forced to withdraw from participation in Expo 67. They said at the time that they wished to mark Canada's centenary in a suitable way in Ireland, and there was certainly ample evidence throughout the year of Ireland's desire to help us celebrate.

Canada's National Day

July 1 was, of course, the focal point for centennial celebrations, culminating in the special reception which the Irish Government mounted in honour of the occasion. Invitations were issued in the names of both the *Taoiseach* (the Irish name for their Prime Minister) and the Canadian Ambassador, and on Saturday evening the *Taoiseach* and Mrs. John Lynch and Ambassador and Mrs. Evan Gill began receiving the first of the thousand or so guests who came to historic Dublin Castle, headquarters of the former British administration, where the reception was held. The guest-list included all the Canadian community, and members of the Irish Government, the diplomatic corps and representatives of Irish academic, professional and business circles. The Canadian forces were represented by members of the Defence Liaison staff in London, whose uniforms added an impressive and colourful touch to the scene and made them a focal point as "visible Canadians". President De Valera sent his personal regrets that, because of an indisposition, he was unable to attend.

The guests wandered through the impressive state apartments, which had recently been renovated, including St. Patrick's Hall, where the Presidents of Ireland are inaugurated, and dined on fresh salmon and strawberries and cream. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that a Prime Minister had acted as co-host at a national day reception.

The Irish Government gave several other evidences of their wish to honour Canada. The Canadian flag flew from principal government buildings in Dublin and at the Four Courts, centre of Irish justice, on July 1. This, too, was an unusual gesture, as foreign flags are normally flown only on official visits by heads of state, and then only by the Department of External Affairs. Television watchers were made aware of the Canadian centennial, because Radio