

danger lies in the fact that any industrial crisis may break them up. Then these scattered forces would go to swell the American population. On the other hand, Quebec remains unshaken and unshakable in its adherence to its character and traditions.

But whatever fate the future may hold in store, the French Canadians have played in the past such an important, far-reaching part that they will remain in history a great figure. From the time of Champlain to this day they have been the first to tread nearly all accessible points of North America; no rivers, no lakes, no mountains, no fields or forests have remained unknown to the *coureurs de bois*, trappers or explorers. In every expansion of the continent they have shown the way—with La Salle on the Mississippi; d'Iberville and Bienville in Hudson Bay, Newfoundland, and New Orleans; with La Vérendrye in the Rockies; with the fearless missionaries among every Indian tribe north and south of the Great Lakes, and the Ohio valley. Who would wrest from them the glory of having been the pioneers of civilization in so many parts of North America? Verily we may apply to these daring men of the past, in a restricted sense though it be, the words of Virgil:

*Quae regio in terris nostri non plena laboris?*

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