

The Indian population of Canada is widely scattered, with a variety of cultural backgrounds. It exhibits various stages of economic and social development, from that of the primitive nomadic hunter to that of the highly-skilled industrial worker or member of the learned professions. Like every other community in Canada, the Indian band or group is subject to the economic, social and geographical influences of the region in which it lives. For general purposes the Indian population may be grouped according to the natural economic zones of the country:

#### *Atlantic seaboard*

On the Atlantic seaboard, the various tribes lived originally by hunting and had no agriculture. Today, however, they are mainly engaged in forestry, agriculture, fishing and native handicrafts, and live much the same life as other Canadians making their homes in the Atlantic Provinces.

#### *St Lawrence basin, south of the Laurentian plateau*

At the time of European settlement, the St Lawrence and Great Lakes regions that became the nuclei of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec were inhabited, as they are now, by two main groups of Indians: Iroquoians, including Hurons, and Algonkians, including

Ojibways, Algonkians and Abenakis. The Iroquoians were farmers, the only aboriginal race in Canada that had developed agriculture to any great extent before the coming of the Europeans; the Algonkians depended mainly on hunting for their livelihood. Today, those in the settled areas are engaged mainly in farming, industry and the professions, while those in the more remote areas rely mostly on forestry, fishing, hunting and trapping for a living.

#### *The Prairies*

In the Prairie Provinces the Indians, who depended upon the buffalo for practically all their needs, had to adapt to new conditions following its near extinction. Many are now successful ranchers and grain-growers, a remarkable transition in the space of a few generations, in view of the fact that no previous agricultural experience was available to guide them.

#### *Pacific region*

The Indians inhabiting the coastal areas of this region were formerly seagoers and fishermen; today they are active in commercial fishing, as well as in logging and other industries peculiar to the region. In the interior, fruit-growing and ranching are important, while many Indians earn their livelihood in lumbering. In the