

A Contrast of Students

(Northrop Frye, critic and author, Professor of the University of Toronto, was a Visiting Professor at Harvard in 1975.)

American students are much more frank in talking about their personal problems. Americans also ask me about my own personal views or beliefs—political or religious beliefs—much more freely. Canadians are shy and more reserved.

I have a great affection for American students, but young people who have been conditioned from infancy as citizens of a great world power are not the same people as young Canadians.

Vigilance Is a Vital Word

Canadians have often been distressed to find that their children—under the influence of American books, magazines and television shows—often use American frames of reference, adopt American expressions and are sometimes more knowledgeable about American history than about the history of Canada.

The **Canadian Dictionary for Children** is a Canadianized version of the **Macmillan Dictionary for Children**, which is published in the United States.

The Canadian publisher, Collier Macmillan, has industriously changed spellings and added and deleted items to reflect a Canadian point of view. Some forty per cent of the original 724 pages were altered. Spelling changes include *color* to *colour*, *theater* to *theatre*, *ameba* to *amoeba*, *whiskey* to



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whisky, meter to metre and Halloween to Hallowe'en.

Pronunciations went from *Kil-LOM-eter* to *KILL-oh-meter*, from *KACKkey* to *KAR-key*, *LOO-tenant* to *LEF-tenant* and *PRAH-cess* to *PROH-cess*. Entries on New York, New Jersey and other states were eliminated, and ones on New Zealand (a fellow member of the British Commonwealth) and Newfoundland were added. New words include *micmac*, a small canoe; *anorak*, a waterproof animal-skin parka; *mukluk*, an animal-skin boot; and *cariole*, a light sleigh pulled by dogs or horses.

On a picture accompanying the word *dirigible*, the tiny USA marking was removed, and for *salute*, a drawing of a saluting mountie was substituted for that of a U.S. sailor.

Leacock on Higher Education

If I were founding a university—and I say it with all the seriousness of which I am capable—I would found first a smoking room; then when I had a little more money in hand I would found a dormitory; then after that, or more probably with it, a decent reading room and a library. After that, if I still had money over that I couldn't use, I would hire a professor and get some text books.

Stephen Leacock,
My Discovery of England.

