

**Book Review**

**Nation lucidly transformed**

By JUDITH RICHARDSON

Canada 1896-1921: A Nation Transformed, Robert Craig Brown and Ramsey Cook (McClelland and Stewart Limited) Toronto, 1973. \$12.50.

You don't have to be a card-carrying student of history to read A Nation Transformed; it's as lucidly written as a novel, as interesting as a story-telling session with your grandfather. And yet, it is backed with scholarly intension and erudition enough to make it a valuable reference work on the age of Laurier and Borden.

In 1896 Wilfrid Laurier won an outstanding victory at the polls, only to be faced with the question of the Manitoba separate schools which ultimately resulted in conflict between church and state, and the problem of linguistic and religious parity. In 1916, only twenty years later, Borden's government was faced with a candlelit march on Parliament Hill by teachers and children chanting: "Little children, guard our language. Never obey the oppressor! It is a sacred heritage from our ancestors Our young hearts must remain French..."

The protectionist policies of the government moved, towards a preference tariff; Canadians participated in the Boer War on a voluntary basis; equal suffrage clubs sprung up; and the west was deluged with immigrants, many from the American mid-west responding to a national advertising campaign for "The Last Best West".

With the triumph of enterprise came problems of urbanization and a new industrial order fringed with the benefits of labour unions, strikes, and alienation of agriculturalists. The government laboured with the com-

plaints. From the West that freight rates were too high, and with the nationalists in Quebec who worried over the future of French Canada.

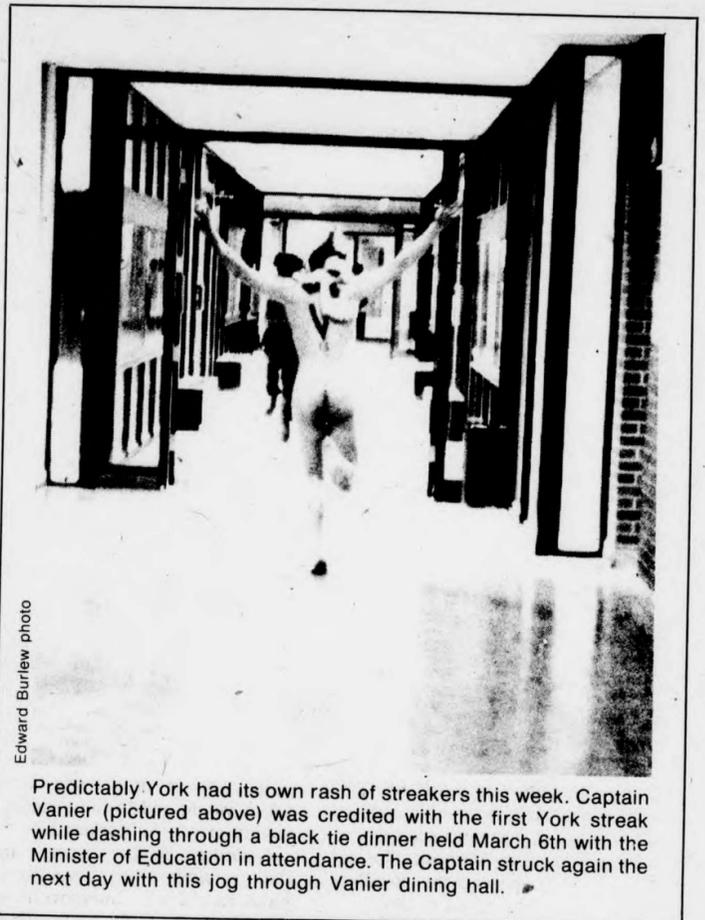
The political debate in the country intensified with the 1911 election and the defeat of Laurier by the conservative party under Borden. There was an attempt at reform and reciprocity, a reaffirmation of the continent as a whole and then War. "Reality took the form of enormous wastage of men." The economy was in a boom period.

Although liberalized attitudes towards the role of women in the society came about by the conspicuous contribution that women made to the success of the voluntary groups in the war, the suffragist movement in Canada was closely linked with the prohibitionist movement, and lost much by the association.

With the peace, the authors document a gradual disenchantment with the imperial design and a growing-up of independence. Reconstruction brought more settlement of the west by soldiers and British immigrants and also an increase in the cost of living and a more powerful labour movement supported by the church.

But life was not so dull. In 1919, a BC citizen writes that "towards Christmas especially it looked as if an epidemic of colds and colics had struck the country like a plague. In Vancouver queues a mile long could be seen waiting their turn to enter the liquor stores to get prescriptions filled..." There was always relief. There is only one fault in the book. The authors ignore completely the fact that provinces were formed and the constitution expanded to include the west. It cannot be assumed that the reader would know this; the reader might assume that the lack of treatment of this subject reflects the general feeling of irrelevance that eastern historians feel towards the west. It is obvious, only with close reading, that this is not the case.

A Nation Reformed, written with humour, with feeling, and, most important, with scholastic achievement is fully documented and contains a select bibliography of unpublished source materials including manuscript collections, government records, and unpublished theses from 64 students studying between the years 1950 and 1973 mostly in Canadian universities.



Edward Burlew photo

Predictably York had its own rash of streakers this week. Captain Vanier (pictured above) was credited with the first York streak while dashing through a black tie dinner held March 6th with the Minister of Education in attendance. The Captain struck again the next day with this jog through Vanier dining hall.

**Does anybody know what this is?**

By BONNIE SANDISON

Tentanda Via, is not a new fad, or even a new slogan. Tentanda Via has been present at York for 14 years.

Tentanda Via has found a home on every York University sign, every official and on those red York jackets.

Gerry Wilson, operator of York's lost and found has been trying to find out what Tentanda Via means since

1972. The best answer he received, until recently, was that Tentanda Via was the motto of York University. "But what does it mean in plain English?" asked Wilson.

York students in their third and fourth year could give no answer. "Well youth being what it is," said Wilson. "I figured they did not care. Some of the students that come into the lost and found do not even know what CYSF means."

"Somebody must know what it means, faculty, administration, a Latin scholar, the guy who thought it up, somebody," said Wilson. Administration, faculty and language scholars have been questioned in the last week to find out what the motto of York really does mean.

A number of suggestions were

offered in response to the question, what does Tentanda Via mean? Language Studies Dean Sydney Eisen of the Faculty of Arts, Ross Howard from the Alumni Affairs Association, acting president J.W. Yolton, and president of CYSF Michael Mouritsen, all said the meaning was, "The way must be tried."

There are other suggestions if you don't happen to like that one. Latin translation seems to cause a lot of difficulty for our scholars at York Other suggestions were; 'Hold by the way' 'The way to learn' and 'The way must be taken.'

After a search through the archives of York, Tentanda Via was found to mean, in the words of the past president of York University, Dr. Murray Ross, "The way must be tried."

This motto was chosen in the founding year of the university. Students held a competition to choose the motto under which future York students could stand, run, or streak.

**Peruvians organize club**

The Peruvian Community of Toronto is organizing a solidarity club.

For further information please write to:

C.W. Espinoza  
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or call Carmen at: 690-2623 (evenings).

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One field course in Anthropology will be offered at Midland during the summer, on archaeological field methods and techniques. The deadline for applications for daytime or evening summer courses is May 1, 1974. Your inquiries will be welcomed by Paul Scott, Part-time Studies Office, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. K9J 7B8.

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