

thought has always enchanted the young; an old country at the very centre of the most extraordinary political experiment of our times, the integration of Europe. This is a country surely to deserve our attention as Canadians.

On the other hand we have Canada, a young nation hastening towards maturity, becoming aware of the importance of education and culture in the development of its natural resources, trying to increase and diversify its industrial production, increasing its investments in social welfare, gradually winning new trade outlets, attempting to free itself from the amiable financial and technological embrace of the United States, examining its own political being. Would it not be possible for this country, thirty percent French-speaking, to attract the attention of France?

Between the old nation now rejuvenated and the young nation approaching maturity, an encounter was perhaps inevitable; and there were many to welcome it, and to make it productive.

Recent Encounters

When we read the list of recent developments in Franco-Canadian relations, we are struck by the frequency and importance of our contacts. Let us recall only a few of them:

the visit by a Committee of the French National Assembly, in February 1963, at almost the same time as the important Baumgartner economic mission;

an exhibition of French technology in Montreal in November 1963, which introduced Canadians to the new industrialized France;

since then, a frequent participation by Canadians in specialized French exhibitions, and numerous federal and Quebec trade missions;

a visit by Mr. Hays to the French Minister of Agriculture in September 1964;

a visit by Mr. Sharp to the French Ministers of Finance and Agriculture in December 1964.

On political and cultural affairs:

a meeting between President De Gaulle and Prime Minister Pearson in January 1964, where the principle of periodic meetings between ministers of external affairs was accepted, and put into practice in May and December 1964;

the opening of consulates general in Bordeaux -- already in business -- and in Marseilles, on May 5;

a visit by the Committee for Cultural, Family and Social Affairs of the French National Assembly in July 1964;