



FUR TRADER WITH CANOE

Mr. Young told Paul that, although in Winnipeg the Ukrainians were the largest group of non-British and non-French origin, in Canada as a whole they were the fourth largest "ethnic" group, following the British, the French and the Germans and followed by the Scandinavians, the Dutch, the Poles and the Italians. "People of all these nationalities make an important contribution to the variety of Canada's culture and economy", he said.

One morning Paul went shopping with Mr. and Mrs. Young in the big Hudson's Bay Company store on Portage Avenue. An unusual feature of this store was its museum, containing relics of the pioneer fur traders, the Indians, and the Eskimos.

Mr. Young explained to Paul that as far back as 1670 the Hudson's Bay Company owned, by special charter from Britain, the whole of Western Canada. It monopolized the valuable fur trade of the Northwest and grew rich on the profits. It had rivals, above all the North West Company from Montreal. Then, about 150 years ago, the Hudson's Bay Company brought out from Scotland the first farmers to settle on the Red River and clear and seed the prairie lands. Groups of settlers continued to arrive during the years from 1812 to 1815, travelling by way of Hudson Bay. In this, the first attempt at agricultural settlement in Western Canada, the new colony had many difficulties to overcome — poor soil, inadequate tools, an unfamiliar climate, grasshoppers and other pests, and the lack of a market for grain and cattle. The settlers themselves and the fur-traders remained dependent for part of their food supply on the buffalo herds that roamed the plains.

There were bitter conflicts between the farmers, the fur-traders, and their allies, the Indians and French-

