

# The Next Step: 'Canadian' Currency?

by Bob Bancroft and  
Gord Buchanan

Can you tell me how a spirit of Canadian Nationalism can be aroused, when every time we pull a dime out of our pockets the Queen, a symbol of subservience, is staring us in the face? Let's face it Canadians, our so-called national spirit has been fixated at a state of adolescence. The time has come when we must progress towards a united and cohesive Canada, or regress into a disintegrated, vulnerable Canada.

For far too many years, flags, currency, stamps, Royal Visits, Governor Generals have stunted the growth of a truly Canadian Spirit. If I were British, and this were Britain, I would welcome the Queen's royal face on my silver etc., but this is Canada and I am Canadian and she doesn't have that invitation. Look around you and you will see that every symbol of national significance that we possess is discolored by a British symbol: eg: our Governor General, who represents Her Majesty, who is officially Our Majesty in every important national function across Canada. In his place, the Lieutenant-Governor performs the ribbon-cutting. There are those who say that he has no real power in Canadian affairs any more. Well, if they think a figure head of subservience is not a wedge in a young democratic country — what is it?

My original plan for this article was to write a sequel to the trend initiated by our new Canadian Flag, that Canadian personages be on our currency and stamps. Giants in Cana-

dian History like Champlain, John A. Macdonald, Mackenzie and Papineau, along with a host of others, contributed much more to Canada's Autonomy than in inert British sovereign ever did. Justice demands that these people be representative of our Canadian heritage.

Our neighbours to the south give us a perfect example of National pride and spirit. It seems odd that one never hears of a French American or an English American, Why? I'll tell you why, the American people have a national identity symbolized by great presidents, heroic frontiersman, a cherished flag and a stirring national anthem. We Canadians all too often look disdainfully upon Americans for boasting about their great country. Personally, I look at this phenomenon with great envy, thinking just how much better our Canada would be if our people exhibited this same overt pride. Men like Davy Crocket and Daniel Boone are exonerated by their countrymen, while their Canadian counterparts, Radisson - Grosiellours and Louis Riel occupy positions of ignominy. Does this mean that these men are assembled of inferior chemistry, or that their deeds are less significant? It certainly does not. Rather, it shows that Canadians, smothered in other nation's traditions, are thereby kept in ignorance of their own history.

Canada should awaken to the fact that she can be a nation on her lonesome. To become a great country, a degree of nationalism must be acquired, and Canadian nationalism is nil. Do we ever hear of "Canadianism"? The decision on a Cana-

dian flag has been too long deferred by that faction who call themselves the "Loyal" British element — who I call traitorous Canadians.

"But" they say, "You forget that the Queen of England is also Queen of Canada." How unrealistic can one get. It's time Canada was ridged of that harmful formality. Once the B.N.A. Act has been brought to Canada, it will have to be scrapped. Governor-generals and their kin will also have to go, and elected representatives of the Canadian government should fill their duties and positions.

There is no real English-Canadian culture or French-Canadian culture per se, because it is a composite. The issue of bilingualism poses an entirely different situation. The French and Normans of the eleventh century integrated successfully with the Picts, Celts, Scots, Teutons, and other English-speaking citizenry following the Battle of Hastings to become a united people. Had the English victors of 200 years ago shown more decisiveness in effecting a policy of determination instead of submissiveness to the French temperament, Quebec would definitely be better off today. It would have been possible for the French in Canada to become integrated in the new English-speaking community, and today to become a united Canadian people. But that's not what happened. Their language should be recognized as the other official language — after all, they were the original founders.

Now a fusion of backgrounds

# Cassara to Visit UNB

Ernest Cassara, Ph.D., associate professor of history at Tufts University, will speak at UNB on March 15. He will speak on 'A Religion Relevant to Today's Campus'.

This lecture will trace the unrest in religious groups during the past hundred years since the evolutionary studies of Darwin, the rise of geology and its findings about man on earth, and the rise of Biblical criticism. "I shall attempt to show the problems confronting individuals and groups as they seek for a meaningful, relevant religion in this time of uncertainty," said Cassara.

His lecture will take place Monday at 8:00 p.m. in room 106 of Carleton Hall.

Cassara will have lunch with students in McConnell Hall on Monday, and will meet with them in the Dons' Lounge afterward. He will also lecture to Dr. Condon's American History class discussing his specialty, American intellectual, social and religious history. Anyone may attend.

Dr. Cassara spent the academic year 1962-1963 on sabbatical leave engaged in study and research in intellectual history at Cambridge. The follow-

ing year he served as interim Director of the Albert Schweitzer College in Churwalden, Switzerland. He has written a book, and many articles for numerous encyclopaedias and journals. He comes to UNB as a Unitarian Universalist Billings Lecturer.



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