

A Springtime Look at Canada's Books

[THE SECOND OF TWO PARTS]

FOR CANADIANS WHO LIVE IN CITIES, the most practiced art is neither sculpture nor painting, but political exhortation. This is a time of ferment in Canada, producing many books, some of deep thought, some of provocation, some of both. D. W. Carr, in *Recovering Canada's Nationhood*, Carr Publishing Co., Ottawa, provides a hardline examination of a common theme: how foreign influence (specifically American) has, in his opinion, come to dominate Canadian life. There are those who would say that Mr. Carr both exaggerates and simplifies, but there are also those who would say that he represents the threat of domination as less than it really is. Mr. Carr has the virtue of presenting his own side of the economic argument clearly and forcibly. He says (1) that American economic and cultural influence have grown at such an alarming rate that Canada must act positively to curb them or lose its identity as a nation in the next few years, and that (2) by fortunate circumstance, Canada is approaching its economic peak at a time when the United States is passing it—making the match more fair than some might think. Mr. Carr's brief for aggressive nationalism somewhat ignores the expostulations of those more concerned with the status and future of Quebec. There are many current books on Quebec which those who wish to know more about La Belle Province might read to their enlightenment. Pierre Vallieres' *Choose*, New Press (translated by Penelope Williams), is perhaps the most forceful. Vallieres, the author of *White Niggers of America*, is a spokesman-theoretician for the Parti Quebecois, the political party which favors separation of Quebec from the rest of the Confederation. Howard Roiter, of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* says of *Choose*: "He (Vallieres) has not simply abandoned terrorism. He utterly and totally condemns it as a reactionary force in the present day Quebec context . . . *Choose* is a document of primary importance; it presents the carefully reasoned thought processes behind a decision which will undoubtedly affect the Canadian political scene."

The political past has its fascination as real as the political present. James Eayrs in the third volume of his *In Defense of Canada, Peace-making and Deterrence*, University of Toronto Press, has produced a study of Ottawa's thinking and decision-making during the closing years of World War II and the opening years of the Cold

War. It is readable and informative. Mr. Eayrs is no respecter of persons.

THERE ARE OTHER RECENT BOOKS worthy of international attention:

In fiction: *The Manticore*, by Robertson Davies, The MacMillan Co. of Canada, Ltd. The brilliant presentation of a rational man who plunges himself into Jungian analysis as a result of his father's accidental death.

On politics: *Quebec: Only the Beginning*, Daniel Drache, ed., New Press. Manifestoes in English of three Quebec unions making a common political front.

The Things That Are Caesar's: The Memoir of a Canadian Public Servant, by Arnold Heeney, University of Toronto Press. Mr. Heeney was twice Ambassador to the United States and a formidable figure in Canadian public affairs for decades.

Louder Voices: The Corporate Welfare Bums, by David Lewis, published by James Lewis and Samuel. The leader of the New Democratic Party amplifies charges he made regarding government subsidies to large corporations during the 1972 election campaign.

Those Things We Treasure, MacMillan of Canada. A selection of speeches on freedom and in defense of Canada's parliamentary heritage, by the Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, former Canadian Prime Minister.

The Canadian Condominium: Domestic Issues and External Policy, McClelland and Stewart. This document emerged from the June, 1971, panel meeting at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., on Canadian external relations and domestic developments in the U.S., with the purpose of increasing American understanding of Canada.

On stage: *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe and Other Plays*, by George Ryga, edited and with an introduction by Brian Parker, New Press. Other plays include "Grass and Wild Strawberries" and "Indian."

The Association for the Export of Canadian Books will soon undertake substantial marketing campaigns in the United States. American customers will be able to order Canadian books from Buffalo, New York. Precise information will appear in time in CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOUR'HUI.