

de la culture propre au Canada de langue française, mais il aussi illustré, de façon irréfutable, leur foi dans l'avenir d'un Canada uni.

In the second place, throughout our journeys and at our many public sessions we were much impressed by the prevailing "Canadian" note which we heard again and again. What we found was a positive Canadianism, quite different from the negative approach of former days. We heard expressions not of what Canada is not, but of what Canada is or should be. I can best describe what we found as a growing desire for self-reliance.

If we have a new sense of self-reliance today, we need it. In our inquiry, we were made constantly aware of Canada's geographical pattern. This, of course, was no discovery. The physical facts of our country serve as a backcloth to any study of Canada. We all know the design pretty well. First, we occupy half a continent with a small and widely scattered population. Secondly, our few millions are clustered along the border of another country with many times our population and far greater material strength. Thirdly, most Canadians share their mother tongue with their huge neighbour, and this leads to very close and intimate relations. Many countries have one, and some two of these conditions. Canada is unique in possessing all three.

The effect of these factors on our cultural life is of arresting importance. For one thing, the isolations of our vast country, the harsh accidents of distance, demand a stiff price. In Canada, all national organizations for whatever purpose are very costly to operate and national meetings expensive to organize. Yet with us they are doubly needed. In the business world, commercial associations apply their resources to maintain permanent secretariats and to hold regular, well-attended meetings. In the cultural field, however, we have still to learn that we must pay a premium too; for here, as well as in the material sphere, we are constantly fighting geography.

Geography affects also the work of government institutions. National agencies such as our museums, galleries or archives have certain responsibilities which lie a long way from Ottawa. A group from the Prairies said in its brief as we have recorded: "It is with considerable amusement that we read under the heading of 'National Museum' that it is centrally located and readily reached by bus and streetcar". It was a good-natured joke but its implications were important. It reminded us again of the challenge and of the problems which stem from Canada's size and shape.

I have referred to internal geographical difficulties. Throughout our work we were made constantly aware of an external problem, a problem suggested by a witness who reminded us that, "Canada is the only country of any size in the world whose people read more foreign periodicals than they do periodicals published in their own land". But magazine literature is only one of many cultural channels from across the border. The impact of our great neighbour on our own national life is a subject both complex and delicate. But it cannot be evaded in any review of Canadian development.

We have gained much from this close contact. For one thing, we are deeply indebted to American generosity.