

try. New British immigrants, who in 1976 numbered over 24,000, not only brought with them valuable skills but helped, in less tangible ways, to strengthen the relations between the two countries. It is in these human terms, often difficult to measure, that the relationship continues to thrive, in many instances outside the sphere of operation of either government.

In areas as varied as the military, scientific, academic and cultural, the tempo of exchange has quickened. Government initiatives during 1976 resulted in an expansion and strengthening of academic ties with Britain at Sussex University and at the University of Edinburgh, where a Chair of Canadian Studies, the first in Britain, was established. Satisfactory progress was also made in the joint production of films as the result of the signing in 1975 of an agreement for the co-production of films.

In the cultural sphere, the successful tour in England and Scotland of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and a variety of painting exhibitions, ranging from a collection of the contemporary works of Greg Curnoe to those of the Group of Seven, took place during 1976. The scope of the exchange program for the visual arts was matched in the field of music — in which, for example, classical performances of the Orford Quartet contrasted with the electronic modern compositions performed by the New Music Concerts.

Ireland

There exists between Canada and Ireland a tradition of warm relations and an affinity deriving from the fact that nearly 10 per cent of the Canadian population is of Irish ancestry. Although in recent years immigration figures have remained stable at about 1,500 annually, ties of sentiment, rooted in the past, are strong. Of late, these have been reinforced by government moves to increase cultural, theatrical and educational exchanges, a direction given added impetus by the appointment in 1976 of Canada's new Ambassador to Ireland, A. E. Ritchie, a former Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. In addition to book-presen-

tation programs, including a gift of French-language books to Trinity College, Dublin, where there is a Canadian studies program, steps were taken in 1976 to increase the number and variety of Canadian activities in the visual and performing arts in Ireland and, through the press and allied media, the coverage of events likely to be of interest to the Irish.

From a late start in 1966, Canadian investment in Ireland, especially in telecommunications and in the lead- and zinc-mining sectors, has grown significantly, a trend that is expected to continue. With a view to encouraging overseas investment, Mr. M. Killeen, then managing director of the Irish Industrial Development Authority, visited Canada and met prospective investors.

In recent years Ireland has been one of the fastest-growing markets for Canadian products in the European Community. After a slump during 1975, Canadian exports made a gratifying recovery, returning to their 1974 record level.

Although Ireland is not a member of NATO, Irish and Canadian troops have had a special association in various peace-keeping roles, notably in Cyprus.

Nordic countries

A similar northern environment, a common pragmatic outlook and a shared European heritage provide the basis of Canada's relations with the Nordic countries. Over the years, Canadians have developed a community of political, economic, social and environmental interests with the Nordic peoples, reflected in the ever-increasing flow of visitors, both official and private, between Canada and Scandinavia. Canadians have been interested in Scandinavian innovations and experiments in the field of social development, and Nordic models are often studied for possible application to Canadian circumstances. During 1976, the then Secretary of State, Hugh Faulkner, visited Denmark (including Greenland) and Norway to compare Canadian and Nordic governmental programs for aboriginal populations.