

of government support, which would leave the publishers free editorially and in the general conduct of their business, has become a necessity.

The financial embarrassment of success has also hit some small, zealous firms, which concentrate on Canadian writers. They have expanded to the point where a critical part of their assets is tied up in books.

"The industry is very healthy at the present time," McClelland said when interviewed in May. "But it is not highly profitable and a lot of these small firms, if they are not given loans, are simply going to disappear."

It is generally accepted in Canada that that would be very bad for the country.

George Cowley's Top Fifteen Books



GEORGE COWLEY is the cultural attache of the Embassy of Canada in Washington and a reasonably literate man, and when it came to deciding just *whose* favorite fifteen would be listed, George got the nod. Out of admiration for his style. George's statement: "Why, ah, thank you. If someone asked me to name fifteen books which together would give the best and most readable picture of Canada, I would say:

The Maple Leaf Forever, by Ramsay Cook (MacMillan of Canada, 1971). A liberal historian, professor Cook gives a lucid and readable analysis of Canadian character, with a main theme of nationalism and the nation-state. The book is wound around the development of two men professor Cook calls "the most important Canadian intellectuals of the past twenty years—Pierre Trudeau and George P. Grant. At one point their political goals seemed to merge," the author says, "but professor Trudeau became the head of the Liberal Party, which he once bitterly criticized, and professor Grant, seeing the Liberals as instruments of 'Americanization', published *Lament for a Nation* in 1965."

The Weekend Man, by Richard B. Wright (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1971). Noted in the main text of the article.

The Fifth Business, by Robertson Davies (Viking, 1970). An enchanting study of Toronto and small town Ontario society from the early 1900's to the present.

The White Dawn, by James A. Houston (Harcourt Brace Jovonovitch, 1971). A novel told from Eskimo tales about first contact with the

white man. It's a profound insight into another way of life. Mr. Houston heard the story when he lived twelve years on Baffin Island. (SEE APRIL CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI.)

Two Solitudes, by Hugh MacLennan (MacMillan, 1951). The classic "French-Canadian Question" novel, covering 1914-1939.

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz, Mer-decai Richler (McClelland & Stewart, 1969). A funny picture of Montreal Jewry and other things, as is another Richler novel, *Son of a Smaller Hero*. McClelland has just published his latest, *Saint Urbain's Horseman*, about an expatriate film director who gets involved in a bizarre sex case in London and recalls much of his Canadian upbringing.

The Tin Flute, by Gabrielle Roy (McClelland, 1959). Set in Montreal, a good background for contemporary Quebec desperation.

The Town Below, by Roger Lemelin (McClelland, 1961). Quebec city, especially its working class.

Charbonneau et le Chef, by John T. McDonough (McClelland, 1968). An incisive play on the relationship of church and state in Quebec under Duplessis. In English.

A Jest of God, reissued as *Rachel, Rachel*, by Margaret Laurence (McClelland, 1966). About a school teacher reaching for fulfillment in the confines of rural midwestern Canada—a much better book than the movie made it seem.

La Guerre, Yes Sir! by Roch Carrier (Edition du Jour, 1968). A bawdy portrait of French Canadian "lowlife" caught up in the army, and a robust picture of old Quebec. In English.

The Blasted Pine, edited by F. R. Scott and A. J. M. Smith (Macmillan, 1967). Subtitled "An Anthology of Satire, Invective, and Disrespectful Verse." Historical and funny.

The Vertical Mosaic: Class and Power in Canada, by John Porter (University of Toronto Press, 1965). Two important aspects of Canadian society—its class structure and the composition of its elites. One of the most outstanding works in sociology published in Canada.

The National Dream: The Great Railway, 1871-81, by Pierre Berton (McClelland & Stewart, 1970). A detailed account of the building of the Canadian Pacific and the first decade or so of the Canadian federation.

A two-in-one packet, *Renegade in Power and Distemper of Our Times*, by Peter Newman (McClelland & Stewart, 1963 and 1968). Political biographies of Prime Ministers Diefenbaker and Pearson, neither totally favorable. Widely read books."

Mr. Cowley protests that this list is not long enough to Do Justice, and if you would like a longer bibliography, he has one.