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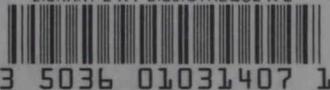
Mar. 1972

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CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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Bilingualism

It is now generally acknowledged that French Canadians have gotten the short end of the Great Bargain. Nearly thirty per cent of Canada's twenty-two million citizens have French as their mother tongue. Some eighty-five per cent live in the province of Quebec, and yet even there virtually all federal government operations and private business have been conducted in English. In economic terms this means that Anglophones got the better jobs. As a rule, even in Quebec, unilingual English Canadians made more money than bilingual French Canadians in Quebec* (see footnote). The spirit in both business and government has been that for an Anglophone to learn French is a show of good spirit (or dementia, depending on the part of the country). The Francophone, however, generally must speak English to work successfully in his own federal government and until recently even to deal with it.

Even more important than money, French Canadians feel that the system has worked to deny them their culture. There have been changes—recent, experimental, and in some cases, front-office. But in spite of a French press and vigorous French broadcasting, and despite a healthy French Canadian presence in the more traditional vocations such as law and the Church, French Canadians feel culturally oppressed. As one man put it, "When I go to work, I hang up my language with my hat." To go up in one's field, a Quebecois must become so assimilated with the language and culture of success, she or

*One recent survey showed that while only fifteen per cent of Quebec employees were Anglophones, they made up thirty per cent of those earning more than \$5,000, sixty-one per cent of those earning more than \$10,000, and seventy-seven per cent of the highest bracket. Anglophones like to point out, as a justification for these figures, that in the past Church-dominated French-language education in Quebec placed little importance or prestige on commercial or technical training, with the result that a much lower proportion of French Canadians today have the education necessary for advanced careers in business or industry.

he must perforce neglect his own. It makes it no less galling to be reminded that French-speaking Canadians, the community centred in Quebec in particular, stand alone, in linguistic and cultural isolation, a tiny minority in a North American setting of 220 million that is overwhelmingly English-speaking.

In their almost four centuries on this continent, French Canadians have learned to survive and, to a degree, prosper. They see themselves as a French element in North America, grown to their present six millions from a tiny colony of 60,000 at the time of the British conquest, shaped by the totality of their experience in the shadow of the Laurentian Shield—culturally, economically, socially, and, not least, climatically.

There are many qualifications, of course, but the odds are not in the Francophone's favour. About thirty per cent of the people whose mother tongue is French have learned to speak English more or less fluently. Research in the 1960's showed that less than five per cent of those whose mother tongue is English speak French with any fluency. French Canadian children grow up learning that theirs is a second language, a tolerated culture.

[THE BEGINNINGS]

How it all began is a question you'll hear answered quite differently in French and English histories, and this article won't attempt to tackle it. It will deal mainly with the federal government's use of French within the public service.

The Treaty of Paris (1763) sealed the British military conquest of the French in Canada, but faced with unrest in the thirteen southern colonies, the British soon gave up the attempt to assimilate the French population. The Quebec Act of 1774 guaranteed the French their language and cultural rights, and French was used somewhat in government and business.

The present Canadian confederation was formed in 1867. It was not exactly a marriage between cat and canary, but it was no equal bargain, either. The British North America Act made

French an Official Language, but in a way both unclear and limited. In effect, it meant that English would be the language of government, with some French translations.

The public service first was staffed by Parliamentary patronage, a system which at least insured a reasonable percentage of French-speaking public servants. In 1918 patronage was replaced by the "merit" system, but the Civil Service Commission, over the decades, became a thoroughly Anglophone institution. Periodically, the French protested this and other symptoms of what they regarded as their second class citizenship, to little end. Postage stamps and currency became bilingual, but the English-speaking establishment exhibited no intention of letting the French in, or letting them go — this while Quebec is the geographically largest and one of the two most populated provinces in Canada, and there are substantial French minorities in most other provinces. In the early 1940's a royal commission recommendation that there be more Francophone participation in the federal government so incensed members of the House of Commons and the press that the matter was dropped on the grounds that it would hurt the merit system. Even in the 1950's in New Brunswick, whose French-speaking minority was already approaching forty-eight per cent, it was considered politically dangerous to make family allowance cheques bilingual.

But unrest in Quebec grew strong. The French Canadians had never had as much affection for confederation as the English, and radicals in the province found more of a public ear for demands for a sovereign status for Quebec, or separation. Among English-speaking Canadians, too, there were those who called for more recognition of the French Fact.

In 1963 Prime Minister Lester Pearson said: "It is reasonable that French-speaking people should be able to use their own language, especially in dealing with the government of their country, or in participating in the work of government." Statements of that sort became common, and that year the Pearson government

established the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism — the B & B Commission, as it became known. The B & B Commission was to hold hundreds of hearings and would document in six fat volumes that Canada had a problem.

In February, 1965, the Commission published a preliminary report, concluding that the country, without being fully conscious of the fact, was passing through "the greatest crisis in its history." The word crisis took many by surprise.

[SUBTLETIES]

While the Royal Commission gave the touch of authority to what Francophones already knew, it did so in an exceptionally thorough way. This had several effects. Firstly, even though Canadians are used to eloquent reports, the B & B Commission reports were so overwhelming that the English-speaking public could not ignore them (that and the daily press reports of radical politics in Quebec). Secondly, the Commission came up with some unprecedented recommendations.

For page after page the Commission discussed broad facts and subtleties of the Canadian condition, and comparable ones in other countries:

— All people have ethnic origins, but some feel more a part of an ethnic group than others — and that alone helps set them apart.

— "The existence of two great, distinct cultures in our country may seem unreal to many Canadians, particularly those who have very little contact with the other culture."

— It detailed economic, educational, and other social conditions of the Canadians of French expression for those who might not have known. For example: "An informal survey among members of the judiciaries and bars in all provinces and territories confirmed that in actual practice the Canadian system of language interpretation for participants in court proceedings is weak, improvised, and likely to lead to miscarriages of justice. The system is not satisfactory even in Quebec."

The six-volume *Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism* is available from Information Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. When ordering please specify English or French.

Book I, *General Introduction; The Official Languages*, (211 pages, \$3.00).

Book II, *Education*, (350 pages, \$4.00).

Book III, *The Work World*, is published in two volumes. Volume 3a covers "Socio-economic Status," and "The Federal Administration," (440 pages, \$5.00). Volume 3b

covers "The Private Sector," and "Conclusion." It also contains a summary of Volume 3a, (136 pages, \$2.00).

Book IV, *The Cultural Contribution of the Other Ethnic Groups*, (352 pages, \$4.00).

Book V and Book VI, *The Federal Capital and Voluntary Associations*, (234 pages, \$3.00).

Those interested may also obtain the First Annual Report (1970-71) of the Commissioner of Official Languages from Information Canada. This report is bilingual and free.

—“It is a fallacy to consider a language and a culture as synonymous. Many Francophones are fully anglicized or Americanized — a well known phenomenon in the business world.”

—Discussing the linguistic characteristics of bilingual and unilingual states, the commission said that if everyone becomes bilingual, one of the languages becomes superfluous. Some states give special rights to minority languages, recognizing those people with different aspirations from the rest of the population: the Welsh in the United Kingdom, Romanche in Switzerland, Maori in New Zealand, Arabic in Israel, and the many languages of the USSR. It discussed the condition of other states which give official status to two or more national languages, trying to provide public functions in both or each, regionally or nationally: French and Dutch in Belgium, Finnish and Swedish in Finland; Czech and Slovak in Czechoslovakia; German, French, and Italian in Switzerland; Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian in Yugoslavia (with special regional status to nine others) and other cases.

—“Whenever a bilingual state preserves the integrity of its language groups, the tensions that might arise are neutralized to the extent that each of the groups within the state has a sense of cultural security. . . . The more vulnerable the minority language, the more guarantees given to those people.” The latter, the Commission said, may be a point for Canada.

—It called for a stop to the small talk: “The equal partnership between the two founding races, ‘le principe de l’égalité entre les deux peuples,’ takes priority over all historical and legal considerations, regardless of how interesting they may be.”

[TWO CONCEPTS OF BILINGUALISM]

In June, 1965, the Civil Service Commission said linguistic qualifications must be mentioned in advertising for all competitive posts, and early in 1966, after ninety-nine years of confederation, it said knowledge of both languages would be

Errata

In the primer issue (Volume Three, Number One), *Canada Today/D’Aujourd’hui* overlooked including the Rt. Hon. Louis St-Laurent among the listing of Liberal Prime Ministers on page four. He was, in fact, Prime Minister from 1948 to 1957, and served twice as Acting Prime Minister.

He recently celebrated his 90th birthday and currently lives in Quebec City, Quebec.

“an additional asset” in applying for posts where there were substantial proportions of Anglophones and Francophones.

This and similar efforts would not in themselves suffice, the Commission said. “It is not enough to tell public servants that they may speak French if they wish; the whole milieu will have to be changed if the Public Service is to become a bilingual institution. At present, when a Francophone comes to work in a setting where English has always been the only language of work, he faces many difficulties and frustrations. He may find that there is no typewriter with French accents; the service personnel are likely to speak only English; most documents in circulation and publications in the library will probably be in English; and co-workers will almost all be unilingual Anglophones. Clearly, it will take more than a new Public Service Commission regulation to make Francophones feel at home in the federal government. It is not surprising that the difficulties persist, despite many efforts to improve the situation.”

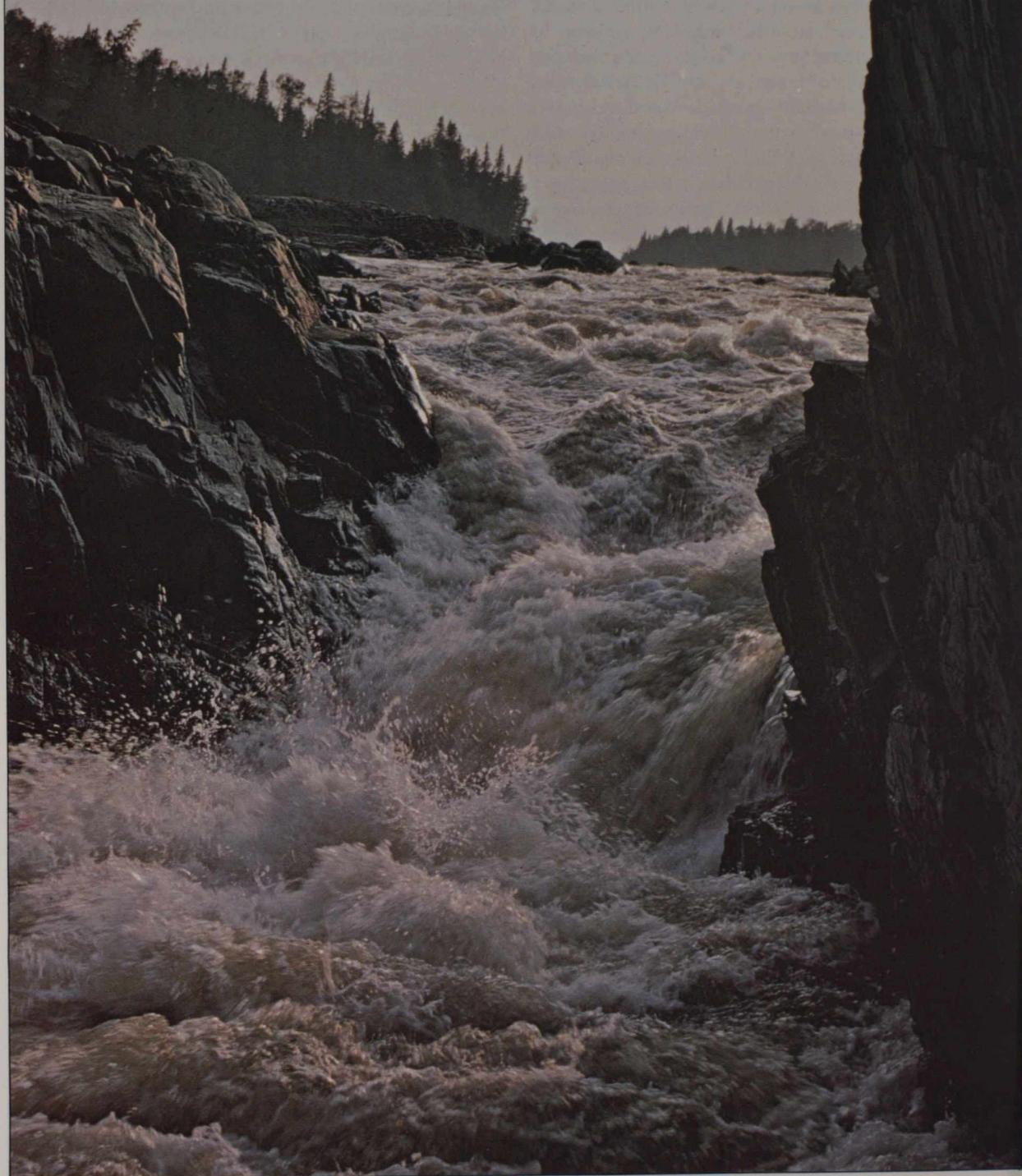
Prime Minister Pearson said the government expected that a climate would be created where public servants from both language groups, appreciating one another and applying their respective cultural values, could work together. The word “climate” was considered significant. “For the first time governmental language policy took account of the two cultures,” the B & B report said. “However, the public service did not follow up on the invitation to create a French-speaking milieu, and the reforms called for were oriented towards creating bilingual individuals.”

That was what had always been thought of as a bilingual public service, and that was what the royal commission thought was wrong with all past attempts. No Canadian government had ever tried to make itself *bicultural*. Your traditional English-Scot Canadian, not known for social adventure, has always thought that one language was good enough for any man or institution.

The English-speaking Canadian was put on the spot because past efforts have strived for equal command of two languages. Such equilingualism is very rare, and, in any event, unnecessary for the creation of a bilingual institution, the Commission said. But emphasis on its supposed value had retarded research in the field.

The Commission said: “Indeed, the present development of bilingualism and biculturalism in the public service is typified by the present policy of the federal administration on (such) matters. That policy envisages the general use of language training to encourage bilingualism and the diffusion of bilingualism throughout the organization (so that), in effect, each individual *continued on page ten*

The Spring Bookstore



FALLS, MISSINAIBI RIVER, ONT, ROSS B HODGETTS: WILDERNESS CANADA

Canadians have difficulty defining their country but they try. Particularly in recent years, there has been a spate of such in books and pictures. In this issue Canada Today/D'Aujourd'hui will try to present a five-foot book shelf in which readers can seek their own definitions. We will start with the railroad.

[THROUGH THE HEART]

The Last Spike, The Great Railway, 1881-1885, by Pierre Berton, McClelland and Stewart Limited.

Mr. Berton may be Canada's best known journalist. His book broke first season sales records with over 100,000 copies sold between September and December, 1971. He lives at Kleinburg, Ontario, near Toronto, and is the father of seven children. He writes with the helter-skelter rush with which Canada built its railroads. In *The Last Spike* he writes of The Canadian Pacific as if it were a natural force, a national religion and an emotional spree. It was all those things. Canada, modern Canada, was built on its roadbed. The plains were empty until the steel rails approached and then through greedy magic the cities suddenly sprang up, Sudbury, Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Revelstoke and Vancouver. There was a crowd of men behind all this, bearded 19th Century men, bigger than life. One was William Van Horne, an emigre from the United States who became more Canadian than the beaver, which he resembled—hairy, ebullient and indefatigable.

In 1885 Louis Riel and his adjutant Gabriel Dumont led the Metis, half Indian, half French, in revolt in Saskatchewan. They were joined by the Cree Chiefs, Big Bear and Poundmaker. Canada had no army. It had scattered groups of militia and the Queen's Own Rifles. It had no unity. (The Halifax merchants said they would fire any clerks who went off to fight.) It had the scattered beginning of the Canadian Pacific, running west like a severed snake to Qu'Appelle. The builders were almost out of money. Van Horne announced exuberantly that the CP would carry the militia all the way, mostly by rail, sometimes by sleigh, and occasionally by foot:

"As the trains rolled westward and the cheering faded, the men from the cities, farms and fishing villages of the East began to glimpse the rough face of the new Canada and comprehend for the first time the real dimensions of the nation. Out of North Bay the land stretched off to the grey horizon, barren and desolate, the slender spruce rising in a ragged patchwork from the lifeless rock. The railway was completed for passenger traffic only to Biscotasing. Here the troops encountered the first of the CPR construction towns, a hard-drinking, backwoods village of some hundred huts and log cabins interspersed with mercantile tents all decked out for the occasion with Union Jacks and bunting. Between

the canvas pool halls and shops (some bearing crude signs reading 'Selling Off At Cost') were the inevitable blind pigs. On April 1, the day the Queen's Own arrived at Biscotasing, the police had just destroyed five hundred gallons of illicit whiskey. The first gap in the line began near Dog Lake. . . . The men, packed tightly in groups of eight in sleighs provided by the construction company set off behind teams of horses down the uncompleted right of way. At every unbridged ravine and unfilled cut the sleighs were forced off the graded surface, sometimes for several miles and onto the tote road, a roller coaster path that cut through the forests, ran over stumps and windfalls and rocks, dipped up and down the gorges and wound through seemingly impassable stretches of tightly packed trees. In some places the sleighs encountered boulders seven or eight feet high; in others they pitched into holes as deep as graves—the occupants flung over the dashboards and into the streaming haunches of the terrified horses. . . . One sleigh carrying members of the 65th overturned no fewer than thirteen times in the forty miles between Dog Lake and the end of the track at Birch Lake. Men already half frozen in the twenty degree below weather were hurled out and submerged in six feet of powdery snow. . . . Generally this trip was made by night when the sun was down and the weather cold enough to prevent the snow from turning to slush. The men crouched in the bottoms of the sleighs, wrapped in their greatcoats and covered with robes and blankets; but nothing could keep out the cold. To prevent themselves from freezing, officer and men would leap from the careening sleighs and trot alongside in an attempt to restore circulation."

The worst was yet to come. Beyond Dog Lake was Desolation Camp.

"The 10th Royal Grenadiers arrived at Desolation Camp at five one morning after a sleigh journey that had begun at eight the previous evening. There were no trains available to take them farther and so they endured a wait of seventeen hours. They did not even have the warmth of a fire to greet them. Tumbling out of the sleighs like ghosts—for the falling snow had covered them completely—they tried to huddle in the tent through whose several apertures bitter drafts blew in every direction. . . ."

The worst was still yet to come. They traveled by flat cars.

"In these cars, sleep again was all but impossible. . . . The cars were the same gravel cars



used by the construction crews to fill in the cuts. Rough boards had been placed along the sides to the heights of about six feet, held in place by upright stakes in sockets. There was no roof and the wind and snow blew in through the crevices between the planks. Rough benches ran lengthwise and here the men sat, each with his two issue blankets, packed tightly together or huddled lengthwise on the floor. . . ."

The journey was to take eight days, less than ten as promised by Van Horne. For some, the cavalry, the last was the worst, skidding, slipping, sliding across a frozen lake, miles of glare ice that sent the sun blistering back, "with snow and drifts everywhere and no track of any kind. The permanent surface was obscured by a crust under which two or three inches of water lay concealed. . . . At Jackfish Bay the soldiers, badly sunburned and frostbitten — their faces masses of blisters, their feet bruised and swollen — were billeted in shanties, freight houses and empty

transport cars."

At last they got to Red Rock and the stretch of track that would take them the rest of the way.

"When Red Rock was finally reached, the men were like zombies. They stood, uncomprehending, in ice-water, ankle-deep, waiting for the trains; and when these arrived they tumbled into cars — not flat cars this time but real passenger cars — and dropped in their tracks, lying on the floor, twisted on the seats all of a heap. . . ."

The journey was the thing. The Metis and the Indians, outnumbered four to one, won the battles and lost the rebellion.

The whole of the epic journey was more than the sum of its parts. The reluctant militiamen from Halifax who thought of the west as a foreign country found in their startled eyes and tired and frozen bones that they were part of a broad, beautiful, terrifying land.

The journey cost the CP money, a couple of hundred thousand probably and the railroad was

on the edge of bankruptcy. But it saved the road in the end. The road became the symbol of the country, and it was a symbol which the country could not let die.

[ANOTHER]

The people of Canada are still separate people. Their differences are softly emphasized in *Volvox* — *Poetry from the unofficial languages of Canada*, edited by J. Michael Yates, The Sono Nis Press.

The poems were written in a dozen different tongues — the tongues of the immigrants. They are all translated into English.

One from the Icelandic: "She worked as a housemaid, then as a laundress/ in small town Winnipeg, full of emigres speaking/ every language except her own: She was Icelandic/ and as she worked she sang the old Icelandic hymns and songs; the songs had all her joy, they brought/ all her peace. She kept reaching for the language

that got lost in her life. She could never speak it again, though it always measured her breath.

"Late one summer, as she lay dying, she sang again/ the Icelandic hymns, sang in her mother tongue,/ an other tongue for us; and as we lay her/ in a foreign grave, we, who know no Icelandic,/ who know then almost nothing of what she loved/ and lived by, say our prayers over her in English."

[SPACE AGE, STILL]

Canada is the people in the land and the land without people. *Wilderness Canada* is edited by Borden Spears, published by Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd.

". . . Ugly little towns prosper, all calling themselves cities and all looking like faithful copies of Omaha, Nebraska. This is not a Canada to call forth any man's love. But just north of it still lies a different kind of land — too barren ever to be thickly settled, too bleak to be popular

like Blackpool or Miami. There is no reason to doubt that it will always be there, and so long as it is there Canada will not die." Blair Fraser wrote that. The Wilderness is still there. As Fred Bodsworth points out, if two neighbors, one in Detroit and one in Windsor, started traveling south and north respectively, the Detroiter would be wading in the steamy headwaters of the Amazon while the Windsorite was still on Canadian soil, Ellesmere Island, on the edge of the icecap. Almost all of his journey would have been through uninhabited wilderness, a solitude bigger than Australia; forest and tundra, 3 million square miles — the North Woods, spruce, balsam, fir, tamarack and jack pine and the tundra's dwarfed flowering plants, lichens and mosses. The book has pictures of the unbelievable land, beautiful and awesome.

[INUKSHUK]

Among the country's man-made monuments are the neo-gothic Houses of Parliament in Ottawa. *Stones of History, Canada's Houses of Parliament*, was produced by the National Film Board.

"It seems like an act of insanity to have fixed the Capital of this great country away from the civilization, intelligence and commercial enterprise of the Province in a place that can never be a place of importance." So said Lord Monck, Governor of the Province. The city and the Houses of Parliament have survived — the latter rose from the ashes after they were burned to rubble on a cold winter evening, Feb. 3, 1916. The structure was rebuilt during the years of World War I, and it formally opened in 1920. It is a handsome complex, night lighted against the cold sky, one of the best examples of Gothic revival in the North American continent. Gothic revival is not everyone's taste but it works here, dramatically high above the Ottawa River. It is a stone structure with a frame of steel. The floors are principally tile. The exterior walls are backed with hollow tile and brick. The courts, air towers, light wells, chimneys and penthouses are built of Wallace sandstone from Nova Scotia. The focal point is the Peace Tower which towers as a tower should, high above the mass. Within it is a fifty-three bell carillon; at its door massive stone statues, the Lion and the Unicorn; and behind it the parliamentary library, a separate structure which survived the fire, wonderfully intricate, topped by a cone roof, a three-tiered cake at once solid and fantastic. The buildings of Parliament are a symbol of the country; they suggest a freedom of dignity, a special warmth and a reticence that is very much a part of the Canadian character. The Film Board has photographed it beautifully, in color and black and white, in day and at night and in infinite detail. The book almost surpasses the building.

Look at the book and then study (or study anew) the buildings.

This is a reasonably good season for fiction in Canada. For example, Leo Simpson, who was born in Limerick, Ireland, in 1943 and who now lives in Queensborough, Ontario, had his comic novel, *Arkwright* published last fall by Macmillan of Canada. It is about an uncle named Caspar Arkwright, who blundered into financial success and on one occasion bought a TV station, WKOB-TV Channel 3, Selkirk County, with the intention of allowing it to go bankrupt for machiavellian reasons of his own. He first simply ran the dreariest movies, serials and situation comedies he could find. He failed in his purpose. The station made money.

[MORE RECENT BOOKS]

Canada has 202 publishing houses, large and small. Some, like Macmillan and Prentice-Hall, are branch offices of firms based in the United States or the United Kingdom. Others are exclusively Canadian and still others, such as the French-language press in Quebec, are even more targeted. What follows is a sampling, selected with care, which does not attempt to include all worthy books. It is, as is this issue of *Canada Today/D'Aujourd'hui*, heavily tilted toward English language publications. Canada is bilingual, more or less. Our readers, for the most part, are not. Still there are a great many people in the United States who would be interested in reading of Canada in French.

[THE MOSAIC]

There is My People Sleeping, Sarain Stump, Gray's Publishing Ltd. Mr. Stump is a full-blooded Indian — Shoshone, Cree and Flathead. This handsome book has his strong, fluid line drawings, some mystic, some hard realistic, and his poems. "And there is my people sleeping/ Since a long time/ But aren't just dreams/ the old cars without engines/ Parking in front of the house. . ."

Indians, A Sketching Odyssey, Joe Rosenthal, Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd.

A Toronto artist with a grant from the Canada Council visits ten tribes from Northern Ontario to British Columbia. The text and the sketches are emphatic and clear.

The Other Canadians, Profiles of Six Minorities, Morris Davis and Joseph F. Krauter, Methuen, Toronto.

Detailed examinations of the social and political problems of Indians, Eskimos, Negroes, Orientals (Chinese and Japanese), Doukhobors and Hut-terites.

A Time To Pass Over, Life With a Pioneer

Grandmother, H. Gordon Green, McClelland & Stewart, Distributed by Harvest House.
The WASPS have ethnic memories too.

Bonheur d'occasion, Gabrielle Roy, Librairie Beauchemin, Montreal.

Social and psychological contrast in a novel about two groups of citizens of Montreal, one group affluent, one of modest means.

Riviere sans repos, Gabrielle Roy, Librairie Beauchemin, Montreal.

Conflict between Eskimos and the encroaching white man's world.

[HISTORY, FORMAL AND INFORMAL]

Arctic Fever, The Search for the Northwest Passage, Doug Wilkinson, Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd.

An intimate, vivid account of a search which has been going on for 4000 years.

At Home In Upper Canada, Jeanne Minhinnick, Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd.

The romance and reality of domestic life in Upper Canada before Confederation. The pictures and photographs of old homes and old furniture are evocative.

The Great Canadian Comic Book, Michael Hirsh and Patrick Loubert, PMA.

The Canadian Government banned U.S. produced comic books in World War II as part of the general austerity. The enterprising Bell Brothers rushed to fill the cultural void with Johnny Canuck, Dart Daring, Nelvana of the Northern Lights and many, many more. They all died, simultaneously and immediately, after the War. Here they are reproduced in their former breathless glory.

Canada and The United States, The Civil War Years, Robin W. Winks, Harvest House.

Canada is the only major country in the world with a single neighbor. This describes a time when the neighborhood was in turmoil.

L'esprit revolutionnaire dans la litterature canadienne-francaise, Joseph Costisella, Librairie Beauchemin.

A study of the revolutionary spirit in French Canada that reveals the unknown and misunderstood sides of its history.

La jeunesse du Quebec en revolution, Jacques Lazure, Presses de l'Universite de Quebec.

Three facets of the young Quebecers' cultural revolution—socio-political, educational and sexual.

[GOVERNMENT, AT HOME AND ABROAD]

Canadian Provincial Politics, The Party Systems of the Ten Provinces, edited by Martin Robin, Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd.

The history, structure and determinants of the party systems.

Canadian Federalism, Myth or Reality, J. Peter Meekison, Methuen.

Canadians are now more aware of the advantages and difficulties of their government than at any other time this century. A continuing Constitutional conference has been endeavoring to revitalize the old forms.

The Star-Spangled Beaver, edited by John H. Redekop, Peter Martin. A collection of essays examining Canada's current fascination with navel inspection and national identity.

Nationalisme et religion, Tome I, Tome II, Jacques Grand 'Maison, Librairie Beauchemin.

The past and present of politics and religion in Quebec.

How to buy Canadian books in the U.S.

It is difficult, though certainly not impossible, for an American to buy a Canadian book.

There are no legal restrictions but there are practical ones — an American who never sees a book from Canada is not likely to buy one.

A small dent has been made. The United States' first Canadian book shop opens April 15 — The Classic Book Shop, 5th Avenue at 46th Street, New York. Brian Melzak, the proprietor, says he will stock any Canadian title likely to be in demand in the United States.

Two publishing firms in Canada, the University of Toronto Press and the McGill-Queens University Press, maintain warehouses in the U.S. to which new books are sent. When these firms receive an order from a U.S. customer, the order is passed on to the warehouse.

Other Canadian publishing firms will usually accept a cheque in U.S. dollars at par as payment, but they recommend that customers place orders through a book dealer. Although many Canadian publishers are subsidiaries of U.S. companies, the U.S. parent company is not always prepared to distribute its Canadian books in the U.S. It may instruct its Canadian subsidiary not to fill orders from the United States.

There is no customs duty on Canadian books imported into the United States, although there have been delays due to customs difficulties. *Canada Today/D'Aujourd'hui* would be grateful to learn of such delays, since U.S. customs have been co-operative in correcting them.

continued from page three

would be completely free to use his own language without risking either ineffectiveness or affront. Clearly, this system depends heavily on the bilingualism of individuals, even though no other country with more than one language and culture has ever been able to place sole confidence in such procedure. The nearest approach is made in South Africa, but there the two linguistic groups are more nearly comparable in size, and the great majority of civil servants are bilingual. In the Canadian public service, because of the predominance of unilingual Anglophones coupled with the almost exclusive confinement of bilingualism to Francophones, the French language cannot develop in direct competition with English, no matter how effective recruitment and training programmes may be."

The Commission said changes must be made in the workings of the government as drastic as the changes from the patronage to the merit systems, adding that the present political situation demands that the changes be made in a hurry.

Most dramatically, it recommended that the government make parts of itself French.

[WHAT HAD TO BE DONE]

The Commission recommended that bilingual districts be established throughout Canada, and defined them as areas where the official-language minority is numerous enough to warrant linguistic recognition. These districts were designed to bring about linguistic co-operation in the services of existing governments. They further recommended that "any province whose official-language minority reaches or exceeds ten per cent declare that it recognizes French and English as official languages." (See map, below.)

The Commission also recommended that the federal government make French language units a basic principle in all departments and crown corporations — units where French would be the

basic language of work. Each department (for example, State, External Affairs, Post Office, Transport) would contain French language units, and in each department major internal services, such as personnel, administration, libraries, public information, legal services) would function in both languages. The French units must be built into the existing system and be essential to the working of the department — not simply make-work jobs. Within larger French language units, there would be smaller English units, where necessary.

Also:

— Employer-employee relations in the federal service and crown corporations should be in English or French, at the choice of the employee.

— Where appropriate, bilingual employees should be paid more than unilingual employees.

— Bilingual people should be rotated from one milieu to another.

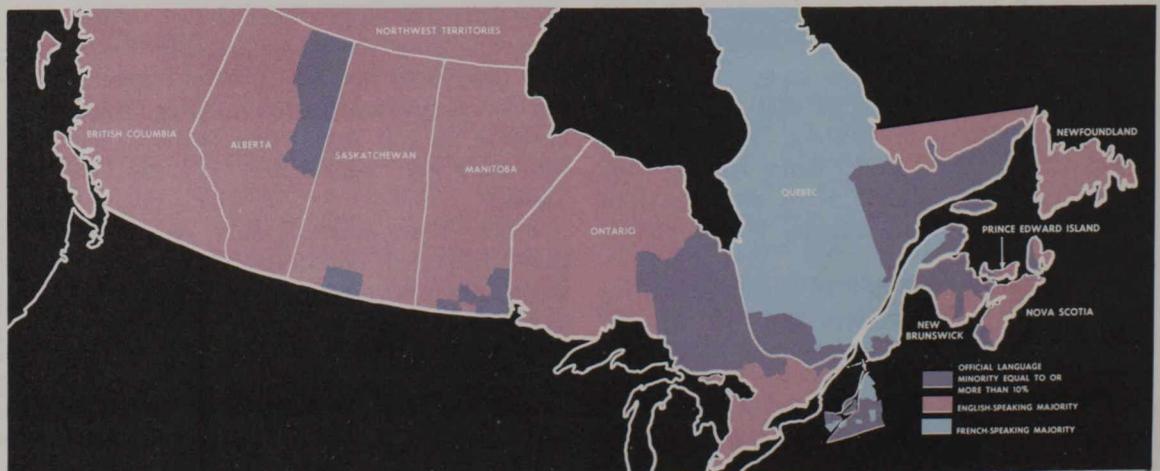
— The federal government should recruit more qualified people from France and other French-speaking countries. Appointments to posts of deputy ministers, associate and assistant deputy ministers should be more balanced, although without quotas or ratios unless a more voluntary system fails.

— The practice of routinely translating all letters and documents into French should cease, and original drafting of documents in French should be encouraged — this to avoid wasting the time of translators.

— A public service language authority should be created — a language ombudsman.

These and many other recommendations were made in 1967 and 1968, as the six volumes were published. In July, 1969, after lengthy debate, Parliament passed the Official Languages Act, incorporating many of the Commission's legislative suggestions, including that for a linguistic ombudsman.

In late 1971, French language units began going into operation in the federal government.



For example, Cultural Affairs and Western Europe in the Department of External Affairs and some ships in the Navy became French language units. Today there are about 27,000 people in 350 units. The intent is to try it out for about eighteen months and then assess it as a working management concept, the extent to which French becomes part of the civil service, and the extent to which Anglophones become familiar with the French scene.

In general there has been acceptance of the movement. Some Anglophones worry that, in spite of assurances to the contrary, their lack of French will handicap their careers; some Francophones think the encouragement to learn French is too little to late. Some, in the West especially, feel it is irrelevant. An official close to the program, asked how efficient it will be, said, "You can get an argument on this. There are some who say bilingualizing the public service will make it radically less efficient. But they act as though this or any public service is already one hundred per cent efficient. Sure there are some slowdowns, but there's nothing impossible."

[PARLEZ-VOUS?]

tionally bilingual, which is considered a successful level for most public servants. Specialized vocabularies are being taught for various jobs.

In earlier days of government language training, people took six to eight hours of classes a week, but this was scrapped in 1968 as ineffective both in cost and in terms of learning the language. The numbers of workers taking courses was high, but the number of those becoming bilingual was low, and there were many dropouts. Starting in 1968, total immersion courses of various sorts were begun. Typical today is a three week total dip, often in a resort-like setting, with nothing but the new language spoken day and night. This is followed by a return to the office with monitors provided to help polish the new skill. Programs may be as long as required — expenses and salary paid, of course. Senior officers may be moved, with their families, to a French or English community for a year. In Ottawa and other places outside Quebec where there are large French minorities, there is also French TV, radio, theater, and films.

[WATCHDOG: THE COMMISSIONER OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES]

Though the thrust of the effort is to make a bilingual institution, rather than bilingual individuals, it clearly takes the latter to pull it off: senior officers, key officials, anyone in a French unit and anyone who meets the public in bilingual districts. There are now about 9,000 public servants in federal language schools, mostly English learning French. The old goal of total fluency has been modified. Four degrees of fluency have been defined, the third being func-

It's not surprising that Canada would create an ombudsman to police its intension that the two official languages be officially treated as equals. Ombudsmen are becoming as much a part of Canadian life as Royal Commissions. The linguistic ombudsman is the most independent federal official. Appointed for seven years and removable only by a vote of both houses, he has the power to investigate, subpoena, and enter virtually any government or crown corporation

Education and Business

Besides suggesting how the federal government run its own house, the B & B Commission made scores of other recommendations for business and education and pointers on how to carry them out. Among them:

— That in the private sector in Quebec, governments and industry adopt the objective that French become the principal language of work at all levels, establishing French units, like the federal government.

— That Francophone job candidates be able to apply in French, and that employers take into account the difficulties the candidate may have had to face in his previous work, as a result of having to work in English.

— That the government of Quebec launch a task force to recommend how French may be

made the principal language of work in Quebec.

(The Commission pointed out some major exceptions to the general pattern, such as Hydro-Quebec. By doing business in French, the power company has forced other businesses to use French and French employees.)

— That study of the second official language be obligatory for all students in Canadian schools, with priority on speaking.

— That the languages not be taught as foreign, but as Canadian, with emphasis on the Canadian milieu.

— That both French- and English-speaking Canadians give less stereotyped pictures of one another in their histories.

office in seeing that the spirit and letter of the act are carried out. He and his staff of twenty-two officers deal with citizens' complaints and initiate their own special studies to assist federal agencies bilingualise and biculturalise themselves. He can report failings to the institution concerned, to parliament, and to the Privy Council. He reports to Parliament annually. If no action is taken, he can publicise the case. However, it is the law that public institutions be bilingual. The first linguistics ombudsman, who took office two years ago, April 1, 1970, has taken a firm but gentle approach: coffee and cookies, he is fond of calling it, or Dr. Kildare rather than Machiavelli, Maigret, or Don Quixote. He is Keith Spicer, a 38-year-old former university professor (Universities of Ottawa and Toronto, York University, and Dartmouth) and *Toronto Globe and Mail* editorial writer.

He feels the job goes beyond the traditional case-by-case approach of an ombudsman and even beyond the more systematic, yet essentially denunciatory role of an auditor-general. He says he is "trying to deconstipate and demystify, to get people talking lucidly and serenely about this issue that people have been far too emotional about.*" English Canadians have to be assured that institutional bilingualism does not mean they have to learn French. French Canadians must be assured this is not "just another federal con game."

* Twice the Moose Jaw city council voted not to hear him, but visits to the town turned out friendly.

Dr. Spicer said more recently that in his second annual report, which will be published in November, he will recommend moderation in implementing the Official Languages Act. He said he will oppose overzealousness in applying the Act particularly where it affects civil servants caught in mid-career. There has been considerable pressure for this attitude from many such civil servants.

The main thrust of the government's and the ombudsman's efforts will center in Quebec, which has a special role in the play. Dr. Spicer says, "Plainly, the decisive effort to protect and enrich Canada's French-language heritage cannot take place in the French-speaking communities of predominantly English-speaking provinces — or even in the Federal government's language schools. The long term future of French in North America will depend mainly on Quebec's ability to strengthen its principal language of culture as a language of work and general social use. In the end, the vitality of French everywhere in Canada will rest on the dynamism — indeed the healthy predominance — of French in this unique jurisdiction."

He adds that while the law says he is to uphold the equal status, rights, and privileges of both French and English in federal institutions, "one must recognize that the English language, resting on the massive cultural infrastructure of some 225 million Anglophones in North America, does not seem in danger of imminent disappearance in Quebec — particularly in federal agencies."

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