


B

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY ESSAY COMPETITION, 1959.

CLASS B

Name	:	Flora NG
Address	:	91, Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen, HONG KONG.
Date of Birth	:	
School Attending	:	Sacred Heart School, HONG KONG.

If you were a tourist agent, advertising the attractions of the Commonwealth, which part of the Commonwealth would you choose, and why?

If I were a tourist agent, advertising the attractions of the Commonwealth, Canada would be my ideal country. I choose her because Canada herself is full of attractions to people of different tastes and professions. Her beautiful scenery attracts the nature lovers and photographers, the variety of vegetation attracts the amateur geologist, her establishment and rapid development make people full of desire to see this wonderful country and lastly her rich potentialities attract the adventurous prospectors because there is a possibility that they will find some new nuclear resources and become a millionaire.

Canada comprises the islands in the Arctic Ocean except Greenland. The Dominion of Canada has a rather intricate history. Long before, Canada was a barren country covered with huge ice-sheets, Its inhabitants were the Eskimos in the Canadian Shield and the Red Indians further south. Their free hunting life made them robust and vigorous, able to endure severe pain and fatigue, keen of sight, hearing and smell. They are usually organised in tubes. They wear headgears which are made of gorgeons coloured feathers, their bodies are painted in fantastic colours. In their natural innocence, they wear few clothes or even go naked. Their customs are entirely different from those of the Europeans or the Asiatics. They lead a hard life, living on only what they get from the land and sea. They have no comforts and luxuries as we have. On the whole Commonwealth, only Canada can offer us a glimpse of the rarest and most mysterious race in the whole world.

/T+

It was not until the sixteenth century that the French tried to conquer Canada by way of the River St. Lawrence. The Red Indian tribes lacked unity and did not offer serious opposition to the white invaders and so the French began to settle in the St. Lawrence valley. More French came, some as colonists, some as conquerors, some as missionaries to convert the heathens and some as explorers.

At the same time, England set up colonies along now what are called the Fall Line States. Both countries, England and France were ambitious to extend their colonies. England extended northward while French extended southward, so they came into conflict several times. At last, England won because she was the strongest country in Europe at that time while the French were diverted by other wars in the European mainland. So Canada became one of the British Colonies. In the eighteenth century, people began to make discoveries along the western coast. Up to that time, Canada was still undeveloped, especially the region west of the Rockies. The discoveries of gold in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia ensured the development of that region. Most of the colonists fled there to seek freedom and liberty, so they tried their best to gain their independence. By the British North American Act in 1867, the Canadians received a Dominion Status and become one of the most important dominions in the Commonwealth. It is through the mutual cooperation among the Canadians that their country has developed into a such prosperous country.

Everything in Canada attracts tourist attention: - the Eskimos in the Arctic islands and lowlands, the trappers and lumberjacks in the coniferous forest, the farmers and stock-rearers of the rolling prairie, the fishermen of Newfoundland, the fruit-growers of the cleared lands of the eastern forests and the valleys of British Columbia.

/Canada....

Canada may be divided into the old city and the new city. The old cities are Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa. These towns are made up of two streams, the descendents of the original French settlers in the eastern provinces, who are French speaking and who still retain their customs; the descendents of British settlers and immigrants from the United States of North America at the time of the American Revolution and even earlier still. Nowadays, Chinese have settled in Canada and are very prosperous. Most of these towns utilize water power from the neighbouring falls to run their saw-mills, paper and pulp mills. The new towns are along the western coast, like Vancouver. Its chief industries are ship-building and exporting wheat, fruit and cattle. While Winnipeg, Toronto, Port Arthur are great collecting centres.

In order to enjoy the most picturesque sights in the Dominion, we can go by either one of the two Transcontinental railways. If you want to have the full benefit of the tour, it is better to go by one and return by the other. These railways offer you the real comfort of the journey, they are like a kind of moving hotel. There are luxurious drawing-rooms, the seats can be turned into a comfortable berth at night. There are dining cars, observation cars that offer you the most splendid views, smoking lounges, library cars, barber shops and the dressing-rooms as well.

The eastern terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railway is Halifax in Newfoundland. There we can see the fiords and the greatest cod fishing industry in the whole world. Fishermen go out to the Grand Banks in dories. They use long fishing lines baited with shell-fish to catch cod, halibut, hake and haddock. Some fish are exported raw while others are salted.

/Next ...

Next we come to the St. Lawrence Valley. There are farm-lands, orchards and cattle ranches. Cattle graze in pastures, flowers bloom, pink, white, red and yellow. A puff of wind will send their exquisite scents to your nose and the delicious odour of apples, pears, plums and cherries will make your mouth water at harvest time. Along the trail we pass several great cities in the Dominion, these are mostly French speaking. The capital Ottawa is situated on the tributary of St. Lawrence, the River Ottawa. The Houses of Parliament stand a little bit below the famous Chauline Fall. Montreal is the oldest as well as the biggest city in Canada. It has many Chinese doing business there. In this city, we can see three different kinds of customs, manners, languages and dress. The Oriental touches attract the Europeans while the French and English customs attract the Asiatics. There are two splendid bridges, magnificent buildings and factories.

Further down is the grandest of all the falls in North America if not in the whole world, the Niagara Falls which is caused by the river falling over a precipice in its bed. Goat Island divides these magnificent falls, the American Fall on the American side of the American side of the American side of the river and the Horse Shoe Fall on the Canadian side. The huge power-stations built there do not affect the beauty of the Falls, which are visited by thousands of tourists yearly.

The train then passes the Great Lakes region. It goes into the Canadian prairie. Wheat is the most important product. It is planted on a very large scale, so large that for miles and miles you can see nothing but wheat, wheat and more wheat. Their stalks are so slender that they seem to dance with the wind and this movement make them look like the rippling sea. At harvest time, the grains glitter so much

/that....

that they blind one's eyes. This wheat is sent by trucks to the huge elevators lived along the prairie. Then it is sent to Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Calgary and Toronto, then it is distributed to other parts of the world. The drier regions are mainly for cattle rearing.

The most wonderful views come into sight when the train enters the Rocky Mountains and it is by far the most dangerous and exciting part of the tour. The snow-clad mountains, deep gorges, great climbing forests of pine and larch, lovely lakes, beautiful waterfalls and rushing rivers make this region one of the world's natural wonders. There are two National Parks in the Rockies. One is the Rocky Mountains Park near Banff and the Jasper National Park. The Jasper Park is one-third the size of Switzerland. There is a great lake named Vermilion, where we can pamper ourselves luxuriously in a small canoe enjoying the surrounding scenery. Tall pines rise to meet the blue sky, which is as blue as the forget-me-nots. The snow-clad mountains reflect red and orange tinges, the crystal like water act as a mirror. There are many different kinds of animals. Within it we see Mt. Rolson, the highest peak in Canada and the Canadian icefield, a mighty glacier which is hundreds of feet thick and extends for over one hundred miles. The Canadian National Railway has built a hotel there. Many people come to visit the Park annually to enjoy the beautiful scenery, riding, climbing and fishing. It is Canada's greatest natural playground and is full of different kinds of wild game.

After we have passed this region, British Columbia is in sight. The dense forests take the shape of a jungle. The perfect symmetry of the Douglas fir trunks, red cedar, spruce and hemlock astound us. The ground itself is covered by a thick carpet of dead leaves and seedlings. The trees are very tall and of every colour and texture of bark.

/British

British Columbia has the most valuable forests of fine timber. Great care is taken to preserve the forests from fire, harmful insects, tree, diseases and wastefulness of men. Aside from timber, it has numerous orchards and is rich in minerals. It is also famous for its salmon fishing along its fringed coast.

Vancouver is one of the largest city on that fringed coast. It has a huge natural harbour. It is a wide, sprawling city. It has the beautiful and famous Stanley Park, a magnificent bridge called the Lyons Gate, Apart from the beautiful surroundings, it is also a very busy port.

In the far north, there are the Eskimos who are more civilized nowadays. In summer, they live in tupic (skin tent). In winter, they live in ani, which is partly underground and partly roofed with drift-wood and turf. Many of them are prosperous trappers and have become rich enough to own motor-boats and schooners for their fishing and hunting.

The tundra is the best place for skating, sledging and tobogganing. The quickest means of transportation is by means of dog sledges. Even in the tundra, inspite of its so very cold climate, it also supports innumerable species of negetation ranging from primitive mosses and lichens to ground birch, willow flowering shrubs and heather. In the short summer, the long warm days bring out bright flowers, birds, insects and even butterflies.

In the coniferous forest, the trees are not like the magnificent, huge trees found in British Columbia. There are only few specis of trees - pine, fir, spruce and earch. It also supports numerous animal bearing valuable furs such as the musk rat, mink, beaver-fox, ermine and marten. These

/animals

animals are trapped by Indian, white and half-breed trappers. The southern part are full of lumberjacks who try to fell the trees to make paper, pulp, rayon and timber for building. The logs are drawn, sliding easily across the snow, to the nearest river; and piled on the ice till the spring thaw sets them floating away to paper, pulp and saw-mills. Lastly the nuclear ore prospectors can journey up the River Malenize or the Canadian Shield to try their luck and to see the great mining factories.

So you can see for yourself the pleasures Canada offer to us. All you have to do is to buy a transcontinental train ticket and the fascinating views you come across will remain in your memory for the rest of your life. Why not take a trip to Canada and see them for yourselves, friends?

- Books of Reference: 1. The Columbus Regional Geographies, second series, book two by Leonard Brooks & Robert Finch.
2. The Land and People of Canada by R.L. Gordon.