



Growth of a Nation
Fitzhenry & Whiteside
\$ 2.95

It's happened at last. A major book publisher has discovered that Canada has a history, and that's interesting. A new history series designed for junior high schools is entertaining, interesting and informative. Featuring such themes as the Gold Rush, Building of a Railroad, and the North-West Mounted Police, this series uses people, diaries, photographs of documents, newspaper clippings, and assorted memorabilia to enrich our understanding of these events. Study

Canadian history at its best

hints, a vocabulary list, and comprehension questions are some of the aids used to guide the student. Summaries of the salient points and personalities are scattered throughout the books. These works are very suited to the teacher who wants students to do projects or activities associated with their studies.

What we liked about this series is that it takes advantage of the colourful characters and events in Canada's history to teach us in an interesting way. Do you know about Shohum Charlie, Matthew Begbie, the Hanging Judge or the recipe for Indian Whiskey - one quart alcohol, one pound black chewing tobacco, one handful of red peppers, one bottle Jamaica ginger, one quart black molasses and water;

mix and boil.- ? If not, then perhaps you may want to read this well written and witty account of Canada's history.

The Canadians
Fitzhenry & Whiteside
\$ 2.25
Fitzhenry and Whiteside also have an excellent series called The Canadians. Featuring such people as Sam MacLaughlin, William Van Horne and Nellie McClung, the book is a collection of fascinating biographies of these great Canadians. Written for a higher level, probably grades nine and ten, these books read almost like novels except for the odd interjection in the form of a point to consider. These books also tend to introduce through the main character just what was happening in Canada at the time and who

was making it happen. This series, which includes over eighty biographies, is a tremendous storehouse of information on Canada's history and deserve a pat on the back for

We can only say that Fitzhenry and Whiteside deserve a pat on the back for these books. For any teacher of history in grades six through ten, we recommend these as excellent study aids. Priced at \$ 2.95 for the Growth of a Nation series and \$ 2.25 for The Canadians series, you should be able to get your school board to come across. While we would not recommend these for university level reading, we feel that education students should be made aware of these excellent series for possible future use.

L'Arche: Home Versus Institution con't from page 4)

of these mini-communities is to foster a family atmosphere during meal time as well as to make evening prayer a more personal and meaningful experience. The special enthusiasm and family atmosphere that is generated by these mini-communities provides the support needed to sustain community morale as well as enrich the spirit of the L'Arche community as a whole. The sleeping quarters are set up in a designated houses and are arranged in dorm-like fashion throughout the community.

Meal time is a very important part of the day because it is at this time where everybody shares the goings on of the day, the community news, etc. When the meal is over everybody pitches in with the clearing of the table and the washing of dishes. Although the food is simple every meal is a real celebration. Lunch, incidentally, lasts about one hour and forty-five minutes with every second usefully savoured.

The spiritual dimension of L'Arche revolves strictly around prayer, silent meditation, the Eucharist and the particular need each handicapped and assistant has for the Lord. Bill Clarke, a Jesuit priest who spent 1 1/2 years living at L'Arche and who wrote a book concerning his experience at L'Arche titled, "Enough

Room for Joy", points out that L'Arche is a prime example of the Universal Christian Community consisting of laymen and laywomen, religious and priests, married people and single people, widows, believers in God, those still in search of a vocation that seeks to unify mind, body and soul in a dynamic way, as well as charismatics, Catholics, Protestants, traditionalists, progressive rich and poor, young and old. It is because of the uniqueness of the members comprising the L'Arche community, the many religious denominations and different levels of faith, there are no specific obligatory rules concerning Mass attendance or receiving certain sacraments. However, Bill Clarke points out that "the prayers gatherings and the sacraments for many is an existential obligation and not a question of rules or habit, but of survival." It is of particular interest to note that it is at the Eucharist, which is widely attended and indeed a very touching experience, where perfect equality among handicapped and assistant is mutually realized.

During my five day visit to L'Arche I was able to meet many of the assistants and converse in some broken French with some of the handicapped. I was simply amazed to discover the simplicity and spirit

that is radiant throughout the community. It seems to me that what is special about L'Arche is that it is in the everyday working, eating, praying, playing, suffering and struggling together that brings people to share a common vision of mutual acceptance and commitment to care for each other. It is also the belief that somehow and in some way each person is trying to give the good news of the bible and reveal to each other its truth.

Since 1964, L'Arche houses have blossomed in 9 countries throughout the world. In its own quiet way the message of L'Arche and the wisdom of Jean Vanier apparently makes sense. People are looking for alternative ways to live and are responsive to a calling that cannot be found in the world of materialism, consumption and competition. My visit to L'Arche was brief but it was a touching experience that gave me a clearer understanding of the role that Christians must play in our society. The simplicity, the living from day to day, the willingness to be open and receptive to other's needs, and to realize that a person is of value not because of what he does but because of what he is, is the message our world needs so desperately to hear. One can learn a tremendous

amount from the handicapped. Status, prestige, competition, the desire to excel, the need to win at all costs, does not matter in their eyes. It is the little things that matter to the handicapped. To smile, to be respectful, to lend a helping hand out of love in time of need, to give support during periods of loneliness and depression and the desire to see the other attain the greatest possible liberty is the message I learned at L'Arche from the handicapped and the assistants.

I have attempted to give you a general idea about my visit to L'Arche. So much has gone unsaid though because L'Arche is a way of life and it is the little things that happen every day that make L'Arche work. Although it is impossible to relate in total "the way of life" at L'Arche, it is not impossible to understand the important significance that the message of L'Arche has for our time. Therefore, let us proceed into this New Year with a renewed hope in HOPE. Let us give the courage to ask God for the faith, strength confidence and determination that is needed to resolve the anxieties, insecurities and false expectations which put a damper on our ability to celebrate life in its completeness.

Art Laffin
Weert, Holland
Jan 11.1977