CANADIAN SOCIETY

Sociological Perspectives

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Third Edition

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To the memory of Carl Addington Dawson 1887-1964

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Preface

This present edition of *Canadian Society* containing fifty-five articles, nineteen more than its predecessor, reflects the vigorous development of sociology in Canada during the past twenty years. Although an examination of our table of contents will reveal important gaps in our knowledge of Canada, as editors we can testify that the body of sociological research on which we draw has expanded considerably in the brief period since we assembled the contents of the first edition. About half of the articles have not appeared in previous editions and some of these are published for the first time. We have added a section on Education, and restored sections on Cultural Variations and Deviant Behaviour. Some articles which appeared in previous editions have been "relocated" among various sections of the book.

All but three articles report directly on a specific research project. We have continued to use this criterion of selection, and have again chosen articles that would represent the broad range of groups, structures, and processes that sociologists regard as necessary to the analysis of human social behaviour. Within this range are the groups that are built upon the relationships of kinship and marriage, and the groups and structures that emerge from co-ordinated efforts to produce the means of subsistence. Along with these kinship and economic groups, there are also larger aggregates which in complex societies create the largest of effective social groups — modern nations and other political units through which authority is exercised. We have allocated a section for each of these three principal institutional orders.

Social stratification in modern industrial societies is not as clearly demarcated as in certain other types of society. However, there is no denying that those who live in modern societies evaluate each other in terms of

xii *Preface*

the different responsibilities they undertake (primarily in the form of occupations), and in terms of the differences in the possession of, and access to, economic resources and power; these provide the basis for the development and persistence of social classes. Since the existence of a system of social stratification has wide-ranging consequences for any society and its individual members, articles bearing directly on this important aspect of social structure are presented in a separate section.

Although research dealing with the processes involved in communicating relevant values, norms, and role expectations to the young or to other newcomers to groups, appears in several parts of the book, we have allocated a separate section to education. Our decision to do so was partly determined by the availability of research on formal education as compared to available research on child-rearing and other aspects of socialization, but also by the importance given to formal education in modern industrial societies. In societies where technology is relatively simple, education may be undertaken within the family or other social groups, but as technological knowledge increases, the responsibilities of teacher and pupil crystallize into specific social roles, and education is pursued within the context of complex forms of social organization. In our view, sociological analysis of the complexities of modern education is essential to the understanding of modern industrial societies.

A predominant feature of Canadian society is the presence of a variety of ethnic groups who, in the face of increasing industrialization, have managed to maintain distinctive values and patterns of behaviour. Although this cultural and social "pluralism", which pervades all spheres of activity in Canada, is recognized in articles appearing in every section of this book, we believe that the relationships between the different ethnic groups, especially between French and English Canadians, warrant a separate section.

Historically, religion has been the most effective stabilizer of the social order. The social relationships within which human beings live, the authority to which they are subjected, and the inequalities they accept, could not persist without the social order as a whole being endowed with the quality of rightness. Even in modern societies, where science and ethical systems based on a secular metaphysic challenge traditional religious ideas, social values remain firmly rooted in religion. It seems appropriate to devote a section to religion, which in Canada has been both a cohesive and a divisive factor.

Deviant behaviour is a matter of concern in all human societies, but it appears to be particularly so in modern industrial societies, judging from the many articles and books that comment on the growth of alcoholism, the use of drugs, the growth of delinquency and crime, "freer" sexual ac-

tivity, the manifestations of violence, and so on. Sometimes it seems difficult to define what is deviant behaviour and what is social change. While we do not explore all aspects of this problem, sufficient research was available to allow a separate section of articles on this important topic.

To provide discussion on a more general level than the research reports that form the main fare, the book begins and ends with essays that attempt a broad analysis of Canada as a social system.

Previous editions of *Canadian Society* engaged the keen intellect of Kaspar Naegele, and both the form and the content were influenced by the views he expressed as we planned and eventually carried out our editorial responsibilities. Although his death in 1965 meant that we would no longer have his active collaboration in assembling this anthology, he continues to contribute by his writing and by the knowledge and criteria that he brought to bear on our past endeavours. Quite literally, he makes a substantial editorial contribution to this edition.

We could never have succeeded in assembling this volume without the assistance of a great many people. Although we do not name them all here, we wish to express our gratitude for their help; our thanks are also due to Miss Joanne Heath for checking citations, obtaining the permission of authors and publishers, and performing the other myriad clerical details necessary for this venture; and we wish to record our appreciation for various services provided by Carleton, McGill, McMaster, and Trent universities.

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