

Canada and Belgium may negotiate cultural treaty

BRUSSELS (CP) — Canada and Belgium, which share French as part of their bicultural heritage, may negotiate a cultural agreement.

Preliminary soundings are understood to have been initiated, although both Belgian and Canadian spokesmen underline that nothing definite has been decided.

Belgian official suggested privately a formal accord would enhance the effectiveness of existing arrangements under the Canadian government's cultural exchange program with French-speaking countries.

The exchange program, entering its second year of operation and administered by the Canada Council, at present offers \$250,000 a year in graduate-level scholarships for study in Canada to the French, Belgians and Swiss in an effort to build up Canada's image abroad as a French as well as an English-speaking country.

Belgium was allocated seven of the 40 scholarships in the 1964-65 academic year, but this year officials have managed to stretch the same amount of money to provide for 13 awards. Further increases and also possible exchanges of musical, dramatic and artistic ventures are hoped for following External Affairs Minister Martin's recent announcement that the cultural exchange program will be boosted to \$1,000,000 a year.

Because Belgium itself is bilingual, the Canadian program has acquired da Flemish accent by opening its doors to the Flemish-speaking majority on an equal basis with the country's French-speaking (Wallonian) majority. A suggestion that Flemish candidates be allowed to attend only French-language insti-

tutions in Canada was quickly dropped.

MANY APPLY

Of the 13 Belgians who will study in Canada this fall, four are Flemish and two others have Flemish names but are French-speaking. Two of the Flemish award winners will go to English-language universities; in 1964-65 a Flemish civil servant in the education ministry studied psychology as applied to sport at the University of Alberta.

Some of Belgium's French-speaking winners have also chosen English-language universities, studying subjects such as international law at the University of Toronto. Most of the scholarships, however, are used at the bilingual or French-language universities of Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke and Laval.

Competition for the scholarships, worth from \$250 to \$800 a month plus an Air Canada return ticket, is announced each

fall and is attracting a steadily increasing number of applicants of high standard. A preliminary selection is made in February by a committee composed of representatives of the Belgian education ministry and of the Canadian embassy in Brussels; the final decisions are taken by the Canada Council.

The Belgian government has reciprocated by increasing its scholarships to Canadians for study in Belgium, with five graduate awards being given this year.

The scholarships tend to go to French-speaking Canadians, but English-speaking candidates are welcome and one, a civil servant with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, has just completed a year's study at the University of Louvain.

GUM IS PURE ANIMAL

The gum on American postage stamps is 100-per-cent rabbit glue.



MIDWAY PROVIDES FUN FOR ALL

Fair grand climax summer vacation

Islanders are noted for that exasperating habit of pulling their chin and saying "After Old Home Week, summer's over."

Possibly this local cliché holds the key to the popularity of the big fair.

For, although it usually comes in mid-August, it is a symbolic event for many. It is the grand climax of vacation, the peak of the tourist influx, and often the time when warmest water fills Northumberland Strait.

For the child, it is much more, really. All summer, possibly all year, he and his companions have saved for the day they'll go to "the exhibition". He has enjoyed speculating what new rides the midway will feature and —hey, maybe this year he'll get up enough nerve to go on the bombers! For him the midway is the main thing and although he may enjoy looking at the animals, they're just a mere side attraction.

And he feels that, "after Old Home Week" school and the dreaded day after Labor Day loom large indeed.

TWO EVENTS

For the average Islander, theatres and art galleries may come and go and will be appreciated to some extent. But for him the summer contains two major events: Holman's birthday sale in July and Old Home Week in August. That's the way it's always been and it will likely stay that way for many years.

Both these events share an "old friends meet" character. Inevitably the fair brings Islanders in contact with people they haven't seen since, well, probably last year's fair, and people stand around catching up on the year's news and gossip.

Old Home Week is the time the Island trots out its "Kentucky of Canada" motto with most frequency. The week is, for many, synonymous with harness racing. It's the time that's a bit maddening for the loyal fans who follow the races all summer long, for people who never go all year arrive during Old Home Week and inevitably get the best seats. That's when the frivolous little woman who picks her horses by their saddle colors or pretty names wins all the money.

Six-year old drives tractor

VANCOUVER (CP)—They're thinking of raising Shelley Kamiah's pay to a dime a load this year.

Last year she only made \$5 all summer, driving a tractor four hours a day, and getting a nickel for every load of potatoes heaved onto the flat-deck behind her.

It wasn't much money—and now that she's six, her father admits a raise might be in order. "She's been driving the tractor for a couple of years now," says her father, Dennis Kamiah, who operates a 100-acre potato farm in Ladner, on the outskirts of Vancouver.

"She got started at it one day when we needed someone to hold onto the wheel to keep the tractor going, and now she starts and stops the machine, changes gears and generally runs it."

Mr. Kamiah said Shelley is under supervision at all times, but she has no trouble with the one-mile-an-hour pace required for loading potatoes.

And some will leave the races half-way through and wander out to the midway that has such a strange excitement about it at night. A trip on the ferris wheel gives you a view of all the lights and the races, and moonlight on the Hillsboro River as a backdrop.

Then, too, people who are penny-wise all year suddenly get a gambling fever, and the fellow who can give his girl a teddy bear or a poodle with an "I was won at June's" tag on it becomes an automatic hero. It doesn't matter if he spent much more

than the price of a bear to win it; that's not the point. He's proud, she's delighted, and for them, this year's Ex has been a success.

And so, as old Home Week comes again, let's wish good luck to organizers, exhibitors, showmen, horses, bettors, spectators, and children with PARK HERE signs.

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