

Burton Lewis Editor
 Frank Walker Editor
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Confederation Train

Among the announcements made at last week's centenary planning in Charlottetown was that a modern exhibit train and tractor-truck caravan would tour Canada in 1967, bringing displays of various aspects of Canadian history to the people. This is going to be something very impressive indeed, according to a statement made over the weekend by Centennial Commissioner John N. Fisher.

The Federal Government has earmarked \$7,000,000 for the project, which will use every available device of the modern age to depict Canada's past and present. Among suggestions already advanced for inclusion in the displays are life-size figures of such early explorers as Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain, and the pre-confederation joint premiers of Canada, Lafontaine and Baldwin and Macdonald and Cartier. Also suggested are replicas of historic documents and charters, paintings, sculptures and musical scores, Indian and Eskimo relics and art, down to the harnessing of the atom for peaceful use, and the Canadian satellite Alouette.

Mr. Fisher has appealed for more suggestions for inclusion in the display train to make it a meaningful exhibition of "all the things that have made us what we are today." A big order; and, of course, not to be interpreted too literally. After all, it's the intangibles, the things that we can see and handle, that really perform that function. But granting this basic premise, we should all be able to enjoy and profit from this glittering pageantry on wheels, reminding us that "all our past proclaims our future", and incidentally that it was the railways, more than any other factor—as Mr. Fisher notes—that brought the provinces of Canada together.

Cuba Again

A serious situation is again building up in Cuba, this time over the continuance of U.S. reconnaissance flights. Castro has been threatening to shoot the planes down. The United States has started another major build-up of troops and planes on the Florida coastline against such a contingency.

Soviet Premier Khrushchev has come into the picture by warning the United States, in a May Day celebration address in Moscow, that these U.S. flights are "provocations and aggressions" against Cuba and could have disastrous consequences. Earlier last week, the Soviet press used similar terms in denouncing U.S. policy, reiterating that the Soviet Union would side with Castro in the event of Cuba being attacked.

The United States has called Premier Khrushchev's attention to the fact that in October, 1957, Moscow agreed to on-site inspection of Cuba—and that Castro refused to allow this, which is the reason why Washington undertook the aerial reconnaissance now complained of.

In October, 1962, one U-2 plane was downed by a Soviet missile over Cuba. At that time, amid the big-missile crisis, no retaliation was ordered. Since then the flights have been going on regularly—once a week, it is said—without appearing to be Moscow's tacit acquiescence.

This month, Soviet technicians will have finished instructing the Cuban military in the operation of

the island's two dozen missile sites, with their 500 Sam missiles which have a 36-mile range. These can reach high enough into the sky to knock down a U-2 plane at close to 80,000 feet. What isn't known for certain is whether the Soviets intend to retain any residual control over these missiles. Washington, quite evidently, would prefer that they did. As one official is reported to have said: "We trust the Russians more than we trust Castro. We had no worries while Moscow controlled the sites."

A correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor queried a top Soviet official at Washington on this subject recently. His reply in substance was: "The overflights should stop. One cannot exclude the possibility that the Cubans will try to stop them. Then the situation could become very dangerous." And he added, sarcastically: "You people should make up your minds. You wanted the Soviet troops withdrawn from Cuba. Now that they are gone, you wish they were back to control the missile sites."

But the Soviets could have taken the Sam missiles with them when they left. They didn't—presumably because they wanted to keep Castro as an ally in their global jousting with Peking. That may explain Mr. Khrushchev's reference to Cuba in his May Day speech, too. But it doesn't ease the situation very much. If Castro takes him at his word and starts upholding Cuban sovereignty by shooting at U.S. planes, the fat will really be in the fire.

The UN And Cyprus

UN Secretary-General U Thant has used blunt language in his report to the Security Council underlining the seriousness of the threat to world peace in Cyprus. He has warned that "there must be an end to fighting and it will surely become necessary to determine responsibility if it continues." He has stated also that UN forces may have to be withdrawn if the two parties do not end their "utterly senseless, savage acts." The Thant report strongly urged President Makarios and Vice-President Kutubia to renounce force publicly and immediately.

As an incentive, Mr. Thant and the UN commander, General Gyanji, propose a specific, gradual scheme of disarming and reintegrating the warring factions. To speed the program, the Secretary-General will send a top-level political envoy to Cyprus to negotiate with the government leaders.

Canada and other nations manning the UN Cyprus force have all expressed strong support for the tough and constructive new turn in UN policy. London and Washington are backing it with diplomatic pressure of their own on the feuding groups.

Even so, considerable scepticism remains about the future of the scheme. Doubt is expressed that either Turkish or Greek irregulars will allow themselves to be disarmed in the foreseeable future. The 7,500 UN troops now on the island would be inadequate to do the job by force, even if this policy was deemed expedient.

The problem has been compared to that of East-West disarmament in microcosm. Only suspicions harbored by the rival groups are, if anything, much more deep-seated than between Washington and Moscow. What makes it more difficult is that the UN's implied threat of withdrawal lacks credibility. Resumed fighting, as both sides are aware, would make it more necessary than ever for the UN to stay.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Liquor sales are indeed big business in Ontario, where the Liquor Control Board has just published its annual report, showing that the provincial treasury received \$87,500,000 in profits and licence fees and \$5,664,653 in sales tax paid on purchases from liquor stores. Sales tax collected on sales through retail wine stores and brewers' stores totalled \$3,336,837. The Dominion Government received, in customs and excise duties, in sales tax and malt duties at present, \$136,000,000. The grand total paid to municipal, provincial and federal governments in levies on alcoholic beverages sold in Ontario for the year was \$234,000,000.



THE MARX BROTHERS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

New National Flag Proposal Protested

"Surprise! Surprise!" exclaims a brightly newspaper as, with the proud flourish of a magician, producing the state rabbit out of his hat, it "reveals" that the Pearson Government plans to give Canada the handsome present of a new national flag. As several readers hurried to remind me, this is a column long ago described these Pearson plans in some detail.

Among the chatter and the clatter of this column, readers find many advance stories of the girders and drapes of tomorrow's stage settings on Parliament Hill. Thus on 15 August last year this column disclosed: "Canada will have a new national flag. The lower half of the Canadian coat of arms contains three red maple leaves, one on a field of silver (white). If you want to bet, you might make money by backing this as the ultimate choice of the Liberal Government. But then listen for the howls of disapproval."

Exactly as this column predicted nine months ago, this design is now the Pearson Government's first choice for a new Canadian flag—the first such flag in the world, incidentally, of a self-sponsored advertising nature. Why? Did I? Take a jar of Vermont maple syrup, stick the label over the hole in the bottle. Lo! You have a Pearson Flag, advertising of course not Canada nor Canada's history nor Canadians' objectives—unless they're sleeping and zzzzzing, but advertising the product in which the tiny State of Vermont leads Canada by a comfortable margin.

OTTAWA'S GREATEST LOBBY

The howls, as this column predicted, are now being heard in abuse onto the heads of the government. This is spontaneous

written protest is the most massive I have ever seen on Parliament Hill. Bob Coates, the young Nova Scotia M.P., helped to accelerate this lobby, and to encourage Canadians to express to Prime Minister Pearson their wish to retain the Canadian flag as our flag.

He casually asked the Secretary of State, Hon. Maurice Lamontagne, "What is the total number of signatures affixed to letters and petitions received since September 5, 1945 by the Secretary of State's office urging the retention of the Red Ensign as Canada's National Flag?" Mr. Lamontagne broke down his reply, saying that between September 5, 1945 and April 5, 1963 10,000 signatures were received.

This precipitated an avalanche of letters to the Secretary of State over the country. The clerks in the Secretary of State's office, voicing similar thoughts, these signatures under the cap, protested one writer, and another pointed out that in the first three months of 1963 alone, there were 14,000 signatures; how come that in the 18 years including 1945 to three months period, the civil servants could then only count 78 signatures?

LETTERS INUNDATE P.M.

In the three weeks since Mr. Coates asked this question, letters and petitions have poured into his office; many of these are copies of letters addressed to State Secretary Maurice Lamontagne or Prime Minister Pearson. I have read through the Coates files and found only one signature opposing the Red Ensign.

Fatigue From Lazy Thyroid

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
 Several years ago a young insurance salesman consulted his physician because of undue fatigue, listlessness, and loss of interest in his work. He looked well but said he was depressed and worried about his health. A metabolism test was low, suggesting a sluggish thyroid. He was given a prescription for thyroid extract. It worked, and two years later this man was rated one of the company's most promising salesmen. Energy declines when the thyroid secretes too little of its hormone. This lessens vigor and the ability to concentrate and think, which leads to depression in some persons with hypothyroidism. The rest of the body may be affected as well, reducing the metabolism in like lowering the thermostat on a furnace.

The individual with a lazy thyroid feels the cold and wears more clothing to remain comfortable. The skin is dry and a dull, the hair may be sparse, and the face puffy. Constipation is common and there is a tendency to put on weight even though the diet remains unchanged. The condition is reversed if taken in time. If the treatment must be continued for life but this is a small price to pay for regaining a sense of well being.

The basal metabolic rate has been used for several decades as a way to detect thyroid activity. Determinations below minus 30 usually indicate hypothyroidism. Radioactive Iodine (I 131) also is used in diagnosis. A small amount of this material is swallowed with water; they 6 to 48 hours later, the thyroid area is checked with a special geiger counter, a sluggish gland absorbs little of this radioactive substance.

The most popular test is the serum protein bound iodine. Persons with a deficient amount of thyroid hormone usually have a reduced concentration of iodine in the blood and the diagnosis is suggested when the reading is low. This test is not valid when iodine has been taken on, for example in cough medicine or ferrous pills.

FERTILITY AT 28
 M. D. writes: Is it harder to get pregnant at age 28 than in the teens?

REPLY:
 Not noticeably so. Perhaps fertility is greater in younger girls.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Occasionally we hear a story that can be repeated in polite company. One we heard recently concerns Eva Gabor, Zsa Zsa's talented sister. The scene was Miami's swank Rocco Club the night Eva was pushed around by a Jewel thief. She came shrieking down the stairs, the first giant she spotted was New York Giant football star Frank Gifford. Gabor howled, "Do something! Gifford, started, stood there. She grabbed him by the shoulders and yelled, "Do something, you half-wit.... "Ma'am, I shrugged Gifford, "I'm not a half-wit. I'm a halfback." — Hamilton Spectator.

Commonwealth Dispute

By Joseph MacSwiney
 Canadian Press Staff Writer
 Who are the home-wreckers of the Commonwealth? The question is being flung about well in advance of the July Commonwealth prime ministers' conference and the leading axe-wielders mentioned just now are Ghana and South Africa, which have been attacked by Ghana, on the face of it, has come out ahead on the statement of Britain's Sir Alec Douglas Home. The Southern Rhodesia prime minister has no right to come to the conference unless he is asked.

Douglas Home's statement makes nonsense of the minor tempest stirred by Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia. Home made it clear it was a matter of right he would be present. **OPPOSITION ANNOUNCED** Ghana was the first country to announce opposition to the idea, leading to questions as to why Ghana itself, with President Nkrumah adopting a dictatorial line on home, should have any right to be present.

ATTEND BY INVITATION
 On the side of the procedure, it has happened that Rhodesia has attended prime ministers' conferences almost as a matter of course, by invitation. But Prime Minister Douglas Home made it clear it was a matter of right he would be present.

"In accordance with this practice we told the prime minister of independent member countries so wished we were ready to consult the prime ministers of independent member countries about the question of an invitation to him." Mr. Smith replied he considered he was entitled, as of right, to receive an invitation to the meeting, and he therefore did not wish the British government to consult the other Commonwealth countries about it.

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