



VERNON E. JOHNSON has dedicated himself to the job of saving the natural resources of the country and yet not spoil or destroy it. The 66-year-old

former baseball player and head of the Canadian International Paper Company came to Canada from Massachusetts in 1920. Soon after he

started his campaign for the conservation of natural riches in Canada. Here, he handles a live salmon on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick district.

ing a demonstration of how eggs are collected from early salmon run for removal to a hatchery. (CP PHOTO)

# Former Businessman Dedicated To Save Canada's Natural Riches

By CY FOX  
HARRINGTON, Que. (CP)—The visitor's car patiently follows a little-known country road through miles of greenery, finally, at the very end of the up sparsely settled hills and roadways, he spots the figure of

10 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Mon., Sept. 14, 1964.  
former head of the Canadian International Paper Company, has retired to the woods, which almost 30 years of work and play have made his element. Tall and soft-spoken, he could be mistaken for an ordinary city-dweller but his big sun-browned hands reflect the rugged dash of a career spent largely in Canada's richly endowed outdoors.

The career started when Mr. Johnson came to Canada from Massachusetts in 1920 to play baseball. But from baseball he quickly turned to the pulp and paper business and a dedicated fight for the conservation of natural riches in Canada, his country of citizenship since 1936.

"How to make use of the country and yet not spoil or destroy it, that's the problem," he says as he casts an expert eye over his thriving garden or examines a troubled tree with the solicitude of a doctor for an especially valued patient.

**TREES VITAL**  
And he contends that without trees mankind cannot prosper financially or physically. Mr. Johnson retired as board chairman of Canadian International last year. He had served for eight years as president of the company, stepping down in 1961. "Now he is established for all but the winter months in his rural community, 65 miles northeast of Montreal and not far from a large company tree farm. He occupies a low-slung house overlooking an island-studded lake. It was in 1920 that the native of Southwick, Mass., came north to play baseball for the Grand Mere. Que., paper mill and found himself confronted almost immediately with a future premier of the province. The late Maurice Duplessis was then general manager of the baseball team representing the Trois-Rivières shipyards. This club and Grand Mere ended up as opponents in the 1920 playoffs for the championship of the St. Maurice River Valley.

any property and Johnson himself is full of ideas for the cultivation of fish. "Growing trout is as easy as growing beets in a garden," he says. As woodlands manager of the company after 1934, as vice-president following 1948 and in the president's chair, he took a leading role in conservation activities in and out of Canada International.

For work like the board chairmanship of the Atlantic Salmon Association, he has won a number of citations and a tribute from columnist Gregory Clark. "Vernon Johnson is one of those men infected with a passion for the beautiful earth," Mr. Clark said.

**FORSOOK BASEBALL**  
The retired paper chief sees trees as the key not only to continued company success but also to prosperity for many farmers in the St. Lawrence River Valley.

**RAISE WRONG GROPS**  
"There are farmers trying to raise vegetable crops in rocky soil and with a short growing season and a bitter climate," he observed, tapping a nervous tattoo with his big fingers as he warmed to a favorite topic. "If they turned to cultivating trees they'd do much better." As company head, he took a special interest in widening the range of products that could be derived from trees and bringing more varieties of trees within the scope of use for pulp and paper purposes. "The secret of success in this effort, he said, was research plus "a little imagination." He also spurred the use of "selective cutting" techniques on the 25,000 square miles of land the company owns or leases from the Crown. The aim here is to promote new growth in operation areas and to preserve as much as possible of the beauty of the landscape. Mr. Johnson cringes when he mentions urban expansion programs that indiscriminately sweep trees away. "I'd build around the trees and not destroy them," he remarked. "Why, they clear the

str. we breathe and the water we drink. We simply can't do without them."  
**Aluminum Co. Said Turning To Steam Power**  
NEW YORK (AP) — President John Harper of Aluminum Co. of America said here his company is turning away from its traditional tie with water power in favor of steam power for new plants.



The Prince Edward Island Regiment (RCAC) will commence fall training at the following times and locations:  
"HQ" and "A" Squadrons—Charlottetown Armoury, Charlottetown, Thursday 17 Sep. '64 at 1930 hrs.  
"B" Squadron—Montague Armoury, Friday 18 Sep. '64 at 1930 hrs.  
"C" Squadron—Summerside Armoury, Thursday 17 Sep. '64 at 1930 hrs.  
Recruits will be accepted at the following times and locations:  
Charlottetown—Brighton Compound Monday and Thursday nights at 1930 hrs. beginning Thursday 17 Sept. '64.  
Montague—Montague Armoury Friday night at 1930 hrs. beginning Friday 18 Sept. '64.  
Summerside—Summerside Armoury Tuesday and Thursday nights at 1930 hrs. beginning Thursday 17 Sep. '64.  
D. J. McCormack, Lt. Col. Commanding Officer.

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