

Imperial Life Assurance Pays \$200 Millions In Benefits

Over \$200 millions have been paid to date as benefits by the Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada. There is now in force in the Company over \$600 millions of insurance. These two figures represent new milestones of progress in the Company's record of service, according to its 54th Annual Report, just released. Insurances and retirement annuities amounting to \$73,121,991 were purchased from The Imper-

ial Life during the year, exceeding all previous yearly totals in the Company's history. The number of applicants has shown a decrease from 1949 but there has been a substantial increase in the amount of the average policy issued.

With life insurance it is inherent that the funds needed to pay the benefits must first be accumulated. Consequently, as The Imperial Life grows, its assets held to meet obligations must increase and these now amount to \$168,215,185. During 1950 the emphasis in the Company's investment program was in fields other than bonds. Mortgage loans and income-producing real estate were substantially increased.

Interest rate earned in 1950 was 3.65 per cent, up fractionally over 1949. A favourable mortality rate in the year was again experienced.

Growth of business and assets produced increased revenue amounting to \$17,895,717 from premiums and \$5,704,904 from interest. The total—\$23,600,621—was 3 1/2 per cent higher than that of 1949.

Life companies must be prepared to face a difficult investment situation when the pressing needs of the government for defense production may force much of the income available for investment into government borrowings, pointed out J. G. Parker, Imperial Life's president, in his annual meeting address. He also suggested that all individual citizens have an important part in the fight to control inflation in which this continent is presently engaged.

Spending for non-essentials should be at an absolute minimum, he urged. Personal savings should be constantly increased. These savings in bonds, bank deposits, life insurance premiums, should continue to be held out of the spending stream. Individuals should refrain from hoarding. "Even in what may seem to us minor things," he urged, "we must realize our responsibility and face the fact that real sacrifice by all of us is needed to wage a successful fight against inflation."

Negro Risks Life To Help Smash Huge Dope Ring

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 — (P) — A Negro federal agent, disguised in a French beret and a trench coat with a fur collar, risked his life to trap a dozen "big shots" accused today of supplying narcotics to New York's carriage trade.

The roundup of 12 alleged major narcotics wholesalers was described as a "paralyzing body blow" to the illegal drug traffic when the men were arraigned in Federal court.

Police said the men were involved in transactions running into "millions of dollars."

The unidentified agent smoked big cigars and posed as an interstate narcotics distributor. District Attorney Frank S. Hogan said. Hogan said he wore the unusual apparel to establish himself as a "character" and perhaps lessen any suspicion.

Recent raids in part a crackdown on the sale of narcotics to school children, have netted scores of other persons who are awaiting trial on various narcotics charges.

The super-cautious kingpin of the new group, according to Hogan, was Anthony Granza, 35. Hogan said Granza has served time in Federal prison on a narcotics charge.

Granza and Jacob (Nat) Pettigrew, 49, a Negro who was arrested with him, were identified by Hogan as the major dealers in the Broadway area and Harlem, respectively. Pettigrew was quoted as admitting making up to \$8,000 weekly selling dope.

Police said the 12 sold high-grade dope to midtown and Upper Manhattan addicts—some of whom could pay up to \$10,000 weekly for supplies.

The disguised Federal agent took his life in his hands, it was explained, by meeting dope peddlers on long corners and going with them to deserted outskirts of the city to get drugs.

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

BY WINIFRED E. WILSON



NECKS

Owls are the "Rubber Necks" of Birdland. Highly suspicious of anybody who comes near, they constantly keep an eye on a person walking around the tree in which they are sitting. Many an observer has felt confident that the one he was watching turned his head the whole 360 degrees, but this is not actually possible.

The fact is that all birds' necks, though varying in length, have this point in common: they have great freedom of motion, and are almost unbelievably flexible. The necks of our ordinary perching birds are supplied with more vertebrae than those of any other vertebrate. Even the comparatively short-necked Sparrows, with but 14 vertebrae in their necks, are able to turn their heads half way round. This is necessary, because birds' backbones are particularly rigid, and it is by twisting their necks that they can see if danger is approaching from any direction.

When catching prey, or preening the feathers on any part of the body this ability to move the head easily is extremely important.

Our owl, then, only twisted its head half way — then snapped it around in the opposite direction so very suddenly that it looked as though the neck must work like a corkscrew.

The motions of the heads and necks of Cormorants on the water are truly snake-like. These birds fly with their necks outstretched, in the manner of Cranes, Herons, on the other hand, in flight pull in their necks close to their bodies, making them appear short. Nevertheless, we realize how long they really are when we see the birds remaining vigilant on a beach, bills pointed to the sky. Their long necks come in useful when they stand in the water and fish by darting their long bills downward. But their necks are not as long as those of Swans, which have 23 or 24 vertebrae, the most of any neck. This enables Swans to feed in deeper water than other non-diving species.

It is almost possible to tie a knot in the neck of a Flamingo. The awkward kink in the Pelican's neck is due to the singular jointing of the 8th or 9th vertebrae with the one on either side of it. This makes it impossible for the bird to straighten out its neck. However, though Pelicans may look unhappy, they really are quite unaware of their peculiarity.

What birds are brightly colored?

Outpost In China

By Val Gleig

Continued CHAPTER XVII

CHAPTER XVIII DALE COMES BACK

"I'm afraid I've left my wand behind," said a voice quietly behind her, "but otherwise I am the good fairy to grant your wish."

Sheila spun round. Janet James jumped up. And Leslie Dale grinned and held out his hand.

The hand and his face were extremely dirty. His clothes, even for a man who cared nothing for appearance, were simply disreputable. And his boots were thick with dust. He was also, to judge by the hollow under his eyes, very weary.

"How on earth did you ever get here?"

"The river," said Leslie Dale, "is still running, unlike the local railways. But I had to ride across country from Chungking. And I'm sorry to say that I've killed a very gallant pony in doing so, poor brute. But I was in a hurry."

"You must have been, to take that sort of risk," said Janet. "The hills are alive with bandits. I'm not pleased with you, Leslie."

"I was expecting an especially warm welcome," Dale protested. "Why aren't you pleased?"

Janet looked at Sheila Havelock before she answered. "Sheila and I," she said, "have been having a heart to heart talk."

"And what have I to do with the summer fashions of Tan Fu?" "I'm serious, Leslie."

"So am I," said Leslie. "I'm hungry as any number of hunters. Don't look so stumped, Sheila."

Sheila who hadn't stirred since he walked in, came suddenly to life. "I wasn't expecting you—that's all," she said slowly.

"May I use your bedroom, Sheila?" asked Janet suddenly. "I think I should powder my nose before dinner, however plain I may be."

Leslie moved quickly to the bedroom door and opened it. The missionary's wife stopped on the threshold of the bedroom and looked Leslie very straight in the eyes.

"I'm glad to see you, Leslie," she said. "We need a man to put Wu Tso Ling in his place. That's the sort of thing you're good at."

CHAPTER XVIII (Continued)

THE MAN OF ACTION

Leslie Dale became elaborately matter-of-fact.

"Sheila," he said, "we've a lot to do, and much too little time in which to get it done. I'm afraid you weren't listening just now. I did the last twenty-five miles by pony across the hills. The poor brute's lying dead half a mile down the road. By rights I ought never to have got through at all. Luckily no Chinese can shoot for nuts—certainly not at night. And there's no way of getting out. I've got to stay here."

Sheila stood clasping and unclasping her hands.

Leslie went on and told her of what had happened in the Shanghai office; of the result on Samuel Greer of the bad news from Tan Fu; of his own reappointment to the station, with the subsidiary job of somehow getting the Havelocks away. "The only bad trouble is that I don't see the remotest chance of getting Gerald away with the whole country up. And up it is. What's all this about Wu?"

"He's threatened to attack and loot Tan Fu in form," said Sheila. "Gerald and the padre saw him today—but Gerald, I'm afraid, made a hash of it."

Leslie Dale's mouth tightened ominously.

"So I must have my show-down with Wu, after all," he said. "Well it was bound to come sooner or later. When does this ultimatum expire, d'you know?"

"To-morrow evening, I think, Leslie."

"Curse!" Leslie exploded. "That means I don't get any dinner!"

Sheila stared uncomprehendingly. Janet James reopened her door just in time to hear the last sentence.

"Did someone mention dinner?" she inquired. "I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I've powdered my nose three times already and it must look just like a marsh-mallow!"

Sheila crossed to the door leading to the servants' quarters and called for the house-boy to bring dinner at once, but Leslie checked her with a gesture.

"No good interfering with your dinner, Sheila. I've not time for that. I must borrow Gerald's pony and get off to see old Wu!"

"No, Leslie—no!"

The girl's face was white to the lips. In the shadows behind her beside the sideboard, Janet James nodded grim approval.

"Of course I must," said Leslie, quietly. "It'll find a final I may, and pocket it. There's nothing to worry about if I can get to the hills before Wu starts down."

"I'm glad your not going to disappoint me, Leslie," said Janet James. "It's quite simple," he said. "I must see Wu to-night and scare him—without making him lose face. Otherwise this place will be just a mess to-morrow night. We've nothing to fight him with, you know. Of course, I must go."

"But he'll kill you!"

"To be continued"

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By Fago & Shortea

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A Story of Continuing Growth

OVER \$200 MILLION TO DATE PAID AS BENEFITS NOW \$600 MILLIONS INSURANCE IN FORCE

The Annual Report of The Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada for 1950 shows benefit payments to policyholders and their dependents of \$10,395,038. Representing SECURITY to retired people and to bereaved families, this sum is the largest ever distributed in any year in the Company's history. Since its establishment in 1897 The Imperial Life has made benefit payments of over \$200 millions.

During 1950, \$73,121,991 of insurance and annuities were purchased through The Imperial Life, bringing insurance in force to over \$600 millions.

Over \$200 millions to date paid as benefits—over \$600 millions of insurance now in force—these totals present a story of continuing growth in The Imperial Life. A copy of the 1950 Annual Report may be obtained from any of the Company's 48 Branch Offices.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE

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