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First Big Assignment

With the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference still having some time to go, it is already evident that Prime Minister Diefenbaker has made a good impression in Britain. Papers of all political persuasions as well as the few independent ones have given him more attention than they usually accord visiting dignitaries from the dominions. One, not noted for editorial reticence, went so far as to call him "the new leader of the Empire". No other Commonwealth personage — with the possible exception of Prime Minister Nkrumah of Ghana, whose chief claim to distinction is that he is the head of the first Negro member of the Commonwealth — has so clearly captured the public interest and imagination. Even the Queen seems to have shared in his unusually cordial reception. Mr. Diefenbaker's formal audience with Her Majesty was intended to last 15 minutes. Actually, it lasted 40 minutes.

One of the reasons, of course, for Mr. Diefenbaker's special status among his peers is the fact that he is there at all. Right up to the night of June 10th, the general belief was that Canada would be represented, as usual, by Mr. St. Laurent. But, quite apart from this response to surprise, there seems to be a feeling that Mr. Diefenbaker is adding a fresh touch to an old pattern of diplomacy. This is no reflection whatever on Mr. St. Laurent who represented this country honourably and well at many conferences both within and outside the Commonwealth. It would be odd, indeed, if a new personality, fresh from a political victory which the experts had not expected, did not arouse new interests and new speculations.

Then, too, there is great interest in the Prime Minister's strong plea for a conference on Commonwealth trade. For some reason or other, the importance of this phase of Commonwealth relations has been neglected in recent years. Mr. Diefenbaker quite plainly wants to see it revived. There is reason to believe that he is bringing some of the other leaders around to his view.

It cannot be too easy for a newly elected Prime Minister, without much experience in international affairs, to make the transition from national politics to Commonwealth politics, overnight as it were. But Mr. Diefenbaker seems to be making it satisfactorily.

"Project Vanguard"

To the roar of giant rocket motors under test, scientists of Project Vanguard are making final preparations for man's first assault on outer space. Present plans call for launching the first 21-pound satellite from a Florida station early next year — if no hitches develop during final tests. At least six of the tiny moons, it is hoped, will be rocketed into space during 1958. Once established in an orbit, a satellite is expected to stay aloft from two weeks to a year or more.

The satellite program — most spectacular feature of the International Geophysical Year — will broaden man's knowledge in four important fields. Sensitive instruments in the elaborately plated and polished magnesium sphere will record information on solar radiation, particularly the effects of ultraviolet light from the towering geysers of flame that periodically convulse the sun's surface. Other instruments will probe our own planet's radiation — both that reflected from the sun and that generated by internal heat. In addition, scientists expect to learn more about the mysteries of cosmic rays, as well as the nature of the magnetic field surrounding the earth. By-products will include an accurate determination of atmospheric density and a clearer picture of the earth's shape.

Due to its highly reflected surface, the tiny moon — only 20 inches in diameter — is expected to be vis-

ible through binoculars under ideal conditions as it hurtles around the earth at 18,000 miles an hour. Volunteer observers will supplement official checkpoints in tracing the satellite's path across the heavens. From these sightings, an electronic calculator in Washington will instantly compute speed, altitude and orbit.

The most accurate chart of the artificial moon's course will be recorded by 12 mammoth, specially designed cameras strategically emplaced throughout the world. Based on such photographic observation, accurate measurements between points on the earth's surface will be determinable within 30 feet. Due to irregularities in the earth's shape, present-day geographic measurements often err as much as 500 feet over long distances.

The three-stage rocket that will launch the satellite on its historic flight into space is 72 feet long and weighs 11 tons. It will propel the instrument-crammed sphere to an altitude of perhaps 300 miles and impart a speed of 26,470 feet a second at the moment of release.

Rocket enthusiasts note that this is more than 70 per cent of "escape velocity" — the speed necessary to overcome Earth's gravitational pull and make true space travel possible.

Report On Vaccine

The Canadian Medical Association was told at its annual convention that Canadian scientists have developed and are now testing a quadruple vaccine for poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. The work started two years ago at the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories in Toronto. Similar research has been going on at the Communicable Disease Centre in Atlanta, Ga.

This is an important development, as is evidenced by this statement made at the convention by Dr. R. D. Defries, consultant at the laboratories. "Because of the number of injections involved in giving protection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough and against poliomyelitis, there is now a tendency to give only one series of inoculations and omit either the triple vaccine or the polio vaccine."

According to Dr. Defries, at the beginning of 1957 approximately 3 million persons in Canada had received at least one dose of the Salk polio vaccine. This, however, is far short of the requirement of safety. "In Canada," Dr. Defries stated, "approximately 10 million persons are included in the age group of infancy to 40 years (the danger period in polio), and since it is estimated that 3 million persons have now received at least one dose of the vaccine, there are 7 million persons remaining to be given the opportunity of receiving vaccine."

It was also brought out at the convention that, although vaccinated persons can be assumed to be protected against polio, they may harbour polio viruses in their bodies and thus act as sources of infection to others. "Because of this," Dr. Defries' report concludes, "it is urgent that all persons under 40 should be vaccinated."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Russians seem to be bending over backwards to avoid criticizing Communist China's recently announced "liberalism". The official paper "Pravda" ignored editorials in the Chinese press praising the authorities for their action and contented itself with reproducing an editorial captioned "Unusual Spring".

A United States Senate Investigating Committee has reported that, despite their claims of independence from the Soviet Union, American communists are actually strengthening their ties with Moscow. Certainly, an "independent" Communist Party is a misnomer. It oughtn't to take a prolonged inquiry to reveal that fact.

The Canadian housewife spends approximately 15½ cents out of her food dollar for dairy products. This money is the livelihood of some 2,000,000 rural Canadians and the families of hundreds of thousands of dairy workers, farm machinery workers, trucking and storage employees. In fact it is estimated that one Canadian out of six derives all or part of his livelihood from dairying.



TO THE RESCUE

OTTAWA REPORT

Tourists & Parliament Hill

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa The summer flood of tourists is already sweeping over Parliament Hill. They come to see, to tour and to photograph our beautiful Parliament Buildings. Picturesquely perched on its riverside cliff, our seat of government makes one of the most gracious groups of institutional architecture. It ranks far ahead of Capitol Hill in Washington; in majestic dignity it compares with Britain's Westminster and the Hungarian Parliament at Budapest.

So it is no surprise that our Parliament Buildings are Canada's wonder. Yet perhaps even more often, tourists' cameras click at the colourful "models", supplied by courtesy of Justice Minister Davie Fulton, to serve as foreground for the Gothic buildings or as backdrop for "Six". These of course are the ever-obliging red-coated constables of the Governor-General's troop of our Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

For two half hours each day, from mid June until after Labor Day, these photogenic Mounties are augmented by a horse. Three constables share this duty, slowly walking a twenty-foot wide path around the hot asphalt roads on Parliament Hill in the afternoon sun. From 1.30 to 4 p.m. each weekday, an oblong mounted Mountie is willing to pose in front of the Peace Tower for what might be North America's prize-winning snapshot.

Yesterday afternoon I chatted with Constable M.F. Torresan, from Rossland B.C., who was performing that duty. As I nuzzled the head of his 12 year old mount Nigger, I asked him how many times he is photographed. "Countless numbers everyday," was his reply.

Constable Torresan and Nigger are both veterans of the famous musical ride. Last Fall they toured Canada and the States with the Governor-General's troop. Nigger through old age and Torresan through illness.

Nigger is typical of the fine-looking, ceremonial blacks in the Mounties' stables. Yet unlike most of the younger horses, he was not bred at the Mounties' stud farm at Fort Walsh, Sask. He was purchased in Ontario. He appears to

be similar in breed to the Fort Walsh horses, which have Hackney mare, Hunter and Percheron combining to give endurance with gracefulness.

Last year, the Hill Patrol was mostly carried out by Bonnie, the seven year old glamour girl of the Governor-General's Troop, who is now in Britain performing in the musical ride.

Nigger is a prize peckish compared to the patient Bonnie. Perhaps he finds this job dull, and no doubt his rider also finds it less exciting than being the colourful Mountie of storybook fame, ranging the wild frontier. But Constable Torresan enjoys compensations: now five years in the R.C.M.P., he is married and lives here with his Regina wife, Loretta, whom he met and courted while in training at the barracks there. And with them are their two children, 3 year old Wendy Anne, already a fan of all mounted Mounties, and baby Glenn Paul.

Young married constables and recruits of the training course make up most of the Governor-General's troop. Ottawa duty is regarded as more of a chore than an honour. It entails standing around Government House and the Parliament Buildings for 40 hours a week, in summer scarlet or in winter Buffalo fur coat. Constable Torresan now has perhaps the most eye-catching job in the Troop; but before that he was giving tickets to trespassers who park where they should not, and being driven nuts by the diplomatic licensees who use their immunity to park wherever they please.

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Affliction Puts Its Victims Asleep

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
While most of us have been bothered by our inability to sleep from time to time, some unfortunate persons have exactly the opposite problem. Instead of insomnia, they have narcolepsy.

Narcolepsy — you've probably never heard the word before — is a condition of involuntary sleep. Victims have sudden attacks of extreme and irresistible sleepiness. Often without warning, they abruptly fall asleep for periods ranging from less than a minute to two hours.

INAPPRPRIATE TIME
Just about everyone I suppose, has fallen asleep while sitting in a chair, riding in a bus or train, or at other inappropriate times and places. Generally you fall sleep suddenly because you are tired.

In narcolepsy, however, weariness has nothing to do with the patient's inability to remain awake. The sleep itself appears to be a normal physiological sleep; it's the occurrence that is abnormal.

STARS EARLY
Most cases originate about the time of puberty or just after it, with about half of them beginning between the ages of 10 and 19. Most victims — 70 to 80 per cent — are males.

It's fairly easy for a doctor to diagnose a case of narcolepsy, although discovery of the cause sometimes is impossible. Some times it occurs following encephalitis, head injury, or with a tumor, multiple sclerosis, cerebral arteriosclerosis, diabetes, hyperinulinism or syphilis of the central nervous system. With some patients, there is a family history of epilepsy.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES
Some persons with personality disorders also suffer from this uncontrolled sleep. It may be that it is neurotic defense against anxiety. Perhaps it is a means of unconscious or even conscious escape from problems.

At any rate, most victims of narcolepsy need both physiologic and psychologic help. We have several drugs available to alleviate these attacks, but probably the two used most are benzodrine sulfate and ephedrine sulfate. Initial doses of any drug must be planned carefully because in most cases treatment is carried out over a long period of time. Psychologic treatment generally is helpful also in preventing any anxiety states from developing.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
Mrs. A. L.: Can a baby be delivered successfully by caesarean section after the mother has died?
Answer: Many cases have been reported in which a living baby has been delivered by caesarean section after the mother's death.

The Age Old Story

I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Buttercup Meadow
Who has woven tapestry over the ground?
Woven with quick fingers, in and out.
Using enamelled thread
Stitching, stitching?

Now a quill, a golden threaded quill.
Is embroidered in one silken piece.
A thousand tethered heads
Bobbing freely.

Under the yellowed stuff lie stitches
Holding the enamel in pattern,
Invisible ties, green roots,
Pulled underground.

Let us walk very softly brushing
The soles of our feet with the butter
From the full gold cups,
Spilling their burish.

—Mervyn Lagden
In the Christian Science Monitor.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(July 2, 1932)
Hon. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner to London, who arrived in the Province Thursday, accompanied by Mrs. Massey and their two sons, left for the mainland yesterday morning after a tour of the Island. During his holiday, Mr. Massey, Mr. Massey filled speaking engagements before various clubs and organizations.

Matters pertaining to all branches of the service of the R.C.M.P. in the Maritimes are being discussed at headquarters here by staff officials of the Maritimes and Officials from Montreal and Ottawa who arrived in the city Tuesday for a conference.

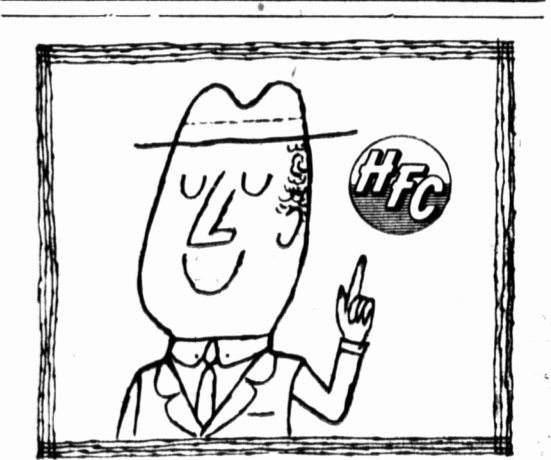
TEN YEARS AGO
(July 2, 1947)
Queries about the rumors current about Summerside that the R.C.A.F. station is to close down, Squadron Leader W. C. Langstaff, Commanding Officer, said he had heard the rumors but that he had received no official word that such a move is contemplated.

Four citizens of Summerside reported a bright luminous object travelling at great height in the air on Tuesday evening which could have been one of the "Flying Saucers" reported having been seen a few days ago in the Western States and Western Canada.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Bad as an atomic explosion would be, we all know at least one person who would survive and figure out some way of cashing in on it. —Hamilton Spectator
An engineering conference in Los Angeles predicts that within a few years a system of electric lines will control drivers on big highways and eliminate all possibility of driver error or accident. The open road will have become a closed circuit. —Vancouver Province
According to the latest Bureau of Statistics figures, since 1951 the number of Canadians under 64 has been increasing in proportion to those of retirement age. Immigration and a high birth rate are important factors. The situation makes it much easier to carry the cost of old age pensions than might otherwise be the case. —Youthful Canada
At an eight-year old's birthday party, the adults rushed around frantically keeping the party going — organizing games, treasure hunts and races. In the midst of the confusion, one little boy asked: "When is this all over, can we play?" —Readers Digest

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