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Migration Miracle

by George Murray
This is the ninth of a series of articles written for the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association by the editor of the Pictou Advocate, Geneva, Switzerland—The whole program of the International Refugee Organization, in resettling war refugees of the displaced persons camps of Europe, counts heavily on the collaboration and assistance of voluntary societies.

The importance of their work was emphasized by Miss Marjorie Bradford of the Voluntary Societies Division, at IRO headquarters here. Miss Bradford, hails from Vancouver.

"Canadian voluntary organizations have been the instrument through which it became possible for many of our refugees to go to Canada on individual sponsorships," she stated, "and throughout the country they are doing a very great deal to help IRO with actual reception work, to help the refugees meet unusual hardships or other special difficulties, and to help them fit into the life of the country."

Canadian organizations have also participated in the field operations either by themselves or as constituent members of international organizations which are working with IRO by agreement in the DP camps. These include the Catholic Immigrant Aid Society, Ukrainian Canadian Relief Fund, Lutheran and other Protestant church organizations working through the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, the Mennonite organizations through the Central Mennonite Committee of the United States and Canada, the Canadian Jewish Congress in cooperation with the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Canadian YMCA and YWCA through the World's Committees of those organizations.

In Canada itself, the Canadian Red Cross is one of those actively helping in the reception and forwarding to refugees, and they have at times also sent supplies into the field areas.

In the field operations, voluntary organizations are providing many specialist services for the care of children, the sick and handicapped, and also contributing special programs for vocational training, language training, education and cultural activities and rehabilitation work. They are helping in many ways to prepare refugees for resettlement and these activities include orientation courses suitably designed in view of the countries to which the refugees will go.

Voluntary organizations have contributed a tremendous volume of supplementary relief supplies to meet capital needs among the refugees in the camps.

"A substantial proportion of our refugees have secured their emigration opportunity through the sponsorship of a voluntary organization," Miss Bradford explained. "This work, and many welfare services contributed both in our field areas and in countries of resettlement, are the important ser-

vice contributions of the voluntary organizations. In addition to that, however, we recognize them as a tremendously important factor in the creation of an informed sympathetic public opinion to aid us in the solution of our refugee problem."

These organizations also proved their usefulness when IRO came up against the problem of the "hard core"—including many displaced persons difficult to resettle because of advanced age, blindness or the necessity for institutional care. What IRO was able to accomplish through governments or through headquarters action was necessarily limited but co-operation of voluntary societies was of great assistance.

"So with these societies supporting their governments, arrangements were made to resettle 980 aged in homes, operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor in France, 280 aged in Belgium, 300 tubercular refugees in Sweden, a large number of totally blind in Norway, thousands of Jewish persons in Israel, and so on.

J. Donald Kingsley, Director-General of IRO, announced the agreement with the Little Sisters of the Poor in France. "These 980 old folk," he said, "constitute the largest single group yet to be taken by any agency or government from the 'hard core' of our 17,000 aged and chronic sick who require institutional care. I cannot praise too highly the spirit of Christian charity which has prompted this Order to strain its resources to the utmost to help them."

Mr. Kingsley pointed out that the men and women who will benefit from the Order's assistance have been living in the IRO camps in Germany and Austria, some of them for several years, and that all were concerned for their future after IRO goes out of existence.

"Now," he said, "they will be able to live in tranquillity and comfort until the end of their days."

The Director-General especially complimented the Order on the fact that their selection was not to be determined on religious grounds. The project originated with Father Edward Killion of the Vatican Migration Bureau in Geneva, who approached the Mother Superior of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Paris, with a request that she seek homes for a few members of the "hard core", one of IRO's most difficult remaining problems. The Mother Superior responded with a call to all of the Order's homes throughout France, requesting each to take the maximum number possible.

Father Braun, specially delegated by the Order, visited Germany and Austria to make up a selection list which he took back to Paris for approval of the Mother Superior.

All these aged will be sixty or more. Some of them are married couples but the majority are widows or widowers and faced a bleak and lonely existence without friends or relatives.

"They will make new friends in a new environment. We think they will like France," says Father

Braun. Thus goes on the vast and complex program of the International Refugee Organization in performing its "migration miracle."

Mrs. Anna Nielsen Was 95 on Monday

Georgetown's oldest lady, Mrs. Anna Nielsen celebrated her 95th birthday on Monday. Mrs. Nielsen has been a resident of town since 1942 when she came here to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Albert Nielsen. She enjoys excellent health, likes to take long walks, writes all her own letters and has retained all her faculties except her hearing.

Mrs. Nielsen was born at Sjælland, Denmark, near Copenhagen, and emigrated to the States when she was 22. An excellent cook, she found employment in Detroit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Parke of the now-famous Parke-Davis Company. Ten years later she married Hans C. Nielsen, a school friend, in Ludington, Michigan, where she resided until after his death in 1929.

In her younger days she was an active member of the Danish Lutheran Church and president of the Danish Sisterhood, of which she is the oldest living charter member. Her chief hobbies were looking after her home and tending a beautiful flower garden.

In 1941 she sold her home in Ludington and resided with her daughter, Mrs. Frank Johnson in Merced, California, for a year. In 1942, she travelled alone by train to Georgetown at the age of 88 to make her home.

Besides her two children, Mrs. Nielsen has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her last grandchild, Alan McDonald, son of Flight Lieutenant Gordon McDonald and his wife Lois Nielsen, who live in Ireland, celebrates his birthday on the same day as his great-grandmother.

THE 1950 INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

Winners in both the horse and tractor "Esso Champions Trans-Atlantic" classes at this year's International Plowing Match will be awarded gold medals and a four weeks' tour of the British Isles with all expenses paid, Roy Shaver, president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association announced today. The 1950 International matches take place at Nottawasaga Valley Farms in Tecumseh Township near Alliston, October 11, 12 and 13th. At a special ceremony on October 11th, Hon. W. E. Harris, minister of citizenship and immigration, will officially open the annual event and tour the "tented city" that will house the latest in equipment and labour saving devices for the farmer. Premier Leslie Frost will be the guest speaker at a banquet in the Beeton Community Arena on the 13th, marking the close of the plowman's classic.

Second prize winners in the Trans-Atlantic classes, which are sponsored by Imperial Oil, will each receive

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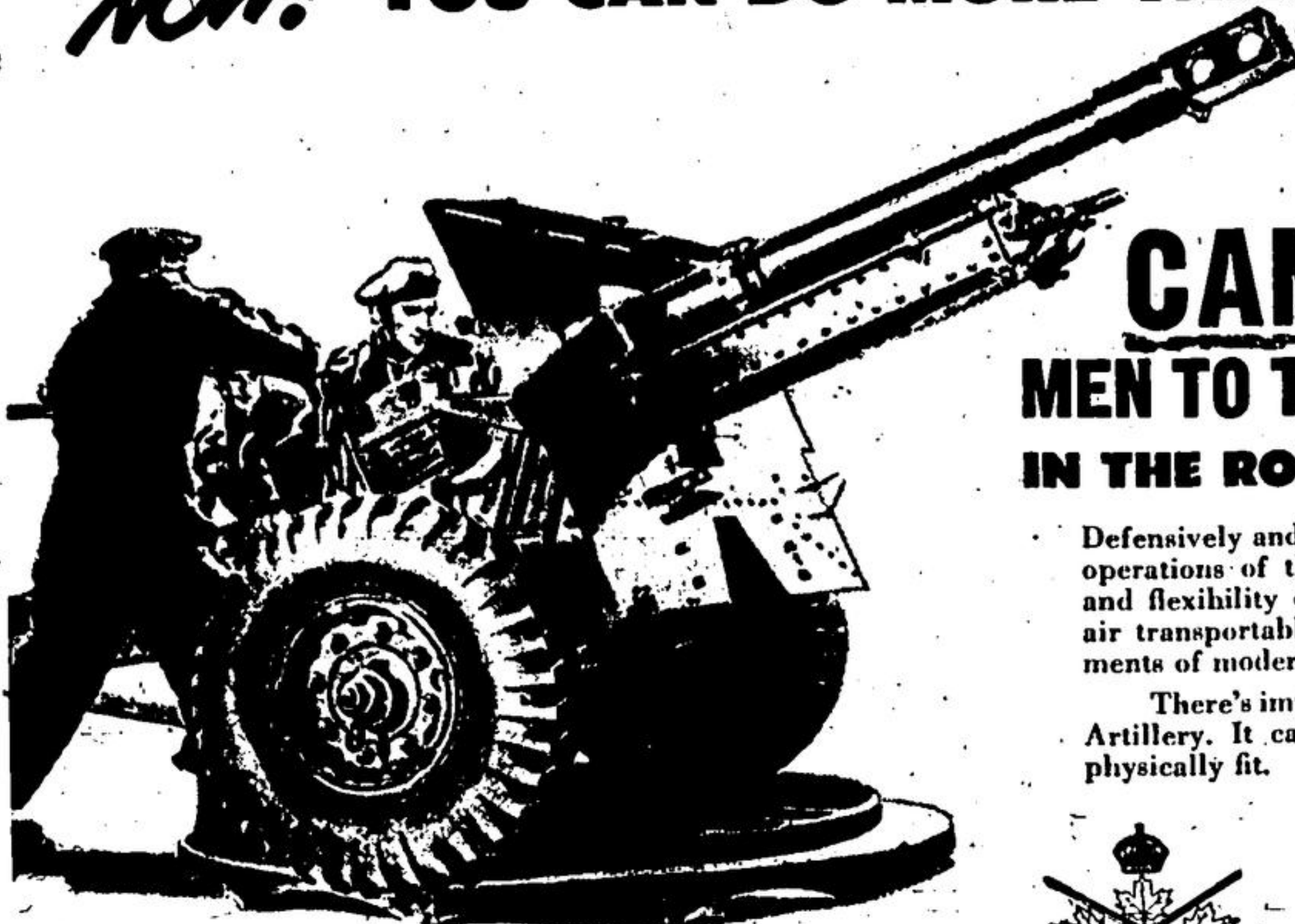
The MARSH HAWK is common in meadows, marshes and open grasslands. With a long tail and long wings, he shows a conspicuous white rump-patch as he glides low over the bogs. He eats mice, rats and snakes, and should be fully protected.

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a silver medal and \$150 in cash. Twelve other cash prizes will be awarded in each class.

The tractor competition is open to all "Esso Champions' Tractor Special" winners at Ontario Plowmen's Association branch matches and all plowmen from other provinces. Previous Trans-Atlantic trip winners will not be eligible.

In the horse-drawn plow class all plowmen who qualified at branch matches after October 15th, 1948, may compete. Gold medal winners in this class in previous years will not be eligible. This class is also open to plowmen from other provinces in Canada.

During their all-expense-paid trips to the British Isles as the guests of Imperial Oil, the gold medalists will attend a number of old country plowing matches, visit outstanding farms and livestock stations and see many historic sites. They will be accompanied by a manager appointed by the Ontario Plowmen's Association. The tour will take about four weeks and includes a short stay in New York City.