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Susan Brown Writes Postal Settlement May Set Costly

(Continued from Page 2)

portion of the population. The number of women who take up this sort of gambling is extremely few. One of the rare times that we noticed a female in the vicinity of one of these "joints" was when she was employed as a clown to play a little tune among the flowers on a small portable drum and bell worn around her neck. I think she was supposed to attract customers!

As for sightseeing in Sapporo, there are more churches than Shinto and Buddhist shrines or temples! But what Sapporo lacks in tradition dies, the rolling farmland consists of large vegetable fields and grazing pastures which actually remind me of Canuck-land! No wonder I loved the place! And even the Rockies would have a tough time competing with the mountains of Hokkaido was, that most of the five days we stayed there, were spent taking extended day-long sightseeing trips to some of the more famous mountains and lakes.

We mostly travelled on buses which are quite something with their extra seats that fold down into the aisle space from the arm of each chair to which they are attached. Naturally our guides spoke nothing but Japanese and we were quite entertained by the traditional songs they would sing which were either characteristic of the region we were visiting, or else were designed to take our minds off of the narrow, treacherous road that was still in its early stages of construction (the country route - bump, bump!) and dropped straight down at the edge with no guard rail for protection - gulp!

Nonetheless, our fear was soon forgotten (ha, ha) since the people of Hokkaido are extremely kind to strangers and we were well looked after, especially by the numerous student hikers who are more than willing to struggle with the English they have lines and accept the settlement committee of the Commons set studied in university. In fact, I'm beginning to plan. think the Japanese are the original Swiss with their hiking boots, woolly knee socks, shorts, and alpine hats! Oh well, it is by far the cheapest way to travel and you can pitch your tent almost anywhere. We even saw one group who camped right outside Sapporo's train station! Or if you are not lucky enough to have a tent, just spread yourself out on newspapers on the floor inside the station.

It's called "roughing it". Considering the fact that we were staying in a hotel, it is no wonder that our campus friends were surprised to meet us on top of a volcano that we climbed the hard way with nimble feet and elbow grease! Whew, I could hardly climb down because of the shock of all that exercise! Thank goodness when two days later we were able to view the sheer cliffs of the seacoast more leisurely from the bow of a fishing boat.

All in all, our visit to the northernmost island of Japan was most enjoyable but, as usual, we were on the move once again. Yawn . . . we would have to choose a train that left at seven thirty in the morning! Normally, it is difficult to find a place that serves breakfast at that hour, but in Japan the problem is easily solved. Before you board the train, visit the nearest platform food stand where it is possible to purchase hard cooked eggs, cheese, milk, bread, tangerines, and even dried cuttle fish (if you should be so inclined!). Presto - instant breakfast on the train.

Our destination was a sixteen-hour journey to Sendai which is north of Tokyo, and thus it was fortunate that the trip was broken by a four-hour ferry ride across to the central island of Honshu. only 6.8 percent. However ac-Then back to another six hours on the train which was really a priceless experience. Every time we figures the increase was 7.2 stopped at a station, a little man selling beverages and boxed dinners of rice, seaweed, and fish would come to the window. At first girls were also selling food on the train, but they later gave this up as people began to stretch themselves out in the aisle to have a snooze.

To explain, the train was going all the way to Tokyo and for those who didn't have a reserved work more than eight hours, seat, it would be a long night to stand until five rather than paying overtime for o'clock in the morning!

Fortunately, though, my friend and I reached Sendai at eleven at night and soon had a real bed in which to rest our weary bones - quite a switch sary to level out the peaks and from sleeping on a futon or sleeping mat laid on the valleys created by fluctuations floor! Like Sapporo, Sendai's wide streets are quite in mail volume. This concesamazing (it was levelled during World War II and had to be completely rebuilt), but this time there was no mistake that we were in Japan. A shrine was even located right in the middle of the main has finally agreed to go along shopping mall; convenient if you wished to pray on your way to work! Actually, our main purpose in coming to Sendai was to view Matsushima, a group of many coastal islands which is supposed to form one of the three most beautiful spots in Japan.

In addition to this, we visited a volcanic mountain range called the Zao Echo Line. No, this time we didn't go climbing rocks! Rather we took the easy route along a spectacular road that ran to the ear popping height of 5,500 feet and terminated at the edge of a crater lake. Our guide was really sweet after she got over the shock of having a couple of gaigins (forcigners) on her tour, and the rest of the bus passengers were forever making sure that we saw everything and did not get lost.

As for the city of Sendai, our best sightseeing was done simply by wandering on our own. It is a town of surprises, especially when one visits the mini "Ginza" which is nicknamed after the famous shopping street in Tokyo. In particular, I wish I could have seen our faces when a student came up to us and began to speak fluent French! All this time I thought we were in Japan!? And if this wasn't unexpected enough, the next evening we were looking for a place to have dinner and accidentally walked into a Japanese beer hall! Naturally, everyone was sitting on the tatami floor at low tables as they ate and drank their beer.

The regular stage entertainment consisted of traditional singing and music to which anyone could get up and follow the nearest hostess in an odori (folk) dance around the floor. Intermingled with this, we had the singular treat of listening to the amateur talent which found its way from the drinking table to the stage. I must say the local singing occasionally was rather painful to the ears! Yet it was also very humerous when a group of older women who were out for a night on the town insisted on displaying their knowledge of music and asked us to join them! And to top everything, the man sitting next to us challenged my friend and I to a beer drinking contest to see whether Japanese 5000 Yonge Street, at 10:30 am or Canadians were stronger! I believe Japan won since I am not all that partial to large quantities of

Nonetheless, all these once in a lifetime exper- seats contact Donald Trollope, iences are in the past and we are now on a train |417 Kenneth Avenue, Willowwhich will take us to Tokyo. From there we shall dale, 221-2823. go to the airport and have a short visit with a friend before saying "sayonara" to the "Land of the Rising Sun". It is sad that we must bid farewell to the country that has treated us so marvelously, but I hope it will not be goodbye forever. After all, we Ruggles Avenue, Richmond Hill, have been invited to return many times!

Federal Wage Pattern For Future

(MacDUFF OTTAWA REPORT) | tall expert in the task of set-There was a collective and tling strikes, was credited by tremendous sigh of relief that both sides for ending the prowent up across the country longed postal walk out. It from Canadians with the news took him 15 days. that the postal dispute had He was praised for his ten-

acity and blunt talk. He fin-They were glad that at long ally went to the government last the government had de-representatives with the agreecided to go along with the ment he had been able to package proposal put forward hammer out. When the cabinis more than compensated for by the beauti- by the mediator and end the et hemmed and hawed and sugful surrounding scenery. Instead of rice pad- strike. Mind you it was gested he go back and talk touch and go at the last, some some more because they did not members of the cabinet said want a 30 month contract they they should refuse to settle on wanted 32 months and they did that basis but insist that the not want to pay half the cost mediator go back to the union of medicare premiums. He was and resume negotiations. The blunt in his reaction. which rise suddenly just outside of Sapporo. So it mediator had in effect said The government knew that didn't take it he was going to and went back to Toronto it pack up and return to Toronto. would be in deep trouble so

The cabinet would have had ment he was offering them. It egg all over its face if it re-could have got a better agreefused to accept the proposals ment last spring. for settlement put forward by Now Treasury Board Chairthe mediator they had brought man Charles Drury wants amin. Particularly bad they would endments to the legislation have looked too because the passed by the Lester Pearson postal union had swallowed Government which gave the some of its demands and de-civil servants the right to cided to go along with the strike. Mr. Drury thinks that mediator's suggestions. If the if public servants walk off the cabinet said "no" and the strike jobs in "rotating" strikes as continued into the winter the did the postal workers the fedpublic would have been heart- eral government should be en-

ily fed up and disgruntled. titled to impose lockouts. Knowing this the cabinet de- G. W. Baldwin, official Opcided it had better swallow its position House Leader, the Propride, stop "huffing and puff- gressive Conservative MP from ing" about six percent guide- Peace River, wants a select Now the government is Staff Relations Act, passed in

It would have been better passed too hurriedly and withoff to have accepted the pro- out sufficient information as to posals put forward last May of its impact on public services.

Judge Lippe the conciliator. There may be even second that report thoughts about the right to It had rejected that report. Ottawa for some time made strike among essential services it clear that it was not going in the civil service. to reach a settlement with the postal unions because to settle essential services? on the postal workers' terms would mean a breach of the six percent guideline. The government pointed out it is engaged in an all-out war against inflation and will settle with its workers only on a scale that does not encourage inflationary

It all sounded very commendable and was tough talk. The postal workers were incensed that they had been singled out as the "guinea pigs" to ensure that the six percent ceiling on wage raises was not broken. Now suddenly Ottawa has settled and settled at a level that is above six percent.

Soon after the settlement was reached Trudeau Administration spokesmen were explaining glibly that it really was not much of a breakthrough of the six percent ceiling. They pointed out the percentage increase in wages was cording to the postal workers'

Neither percentage figure takes into account the fringe benefits on which no estimated value has been set. One of the largest government concessions is to pay overtime to letter carriers each day they each week in which they work more than 40 hours. The government had argued that the weekly averaging was neces-

that surprisingly the cabinet with was to pay one half the them, notably Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. At present rates it will cost the treasury about \$500,000 for postal

But think of the implications. Now the government will have to make the same concession for all federal employees. The cost of this has not been totalled at this writing. It will be very high.

The government had balked at this concession and also wanted the contract to be 32 months long. The mediator from Toronto Thomas O'Connor a scrappy five foot seven inch

Historical Society To Visit Iroquois Oct. 3

The Faith-Keepers of the Long House, who still follow the old ways, will have visitors from North York Historical Society on October 3. To begin its fall season, the

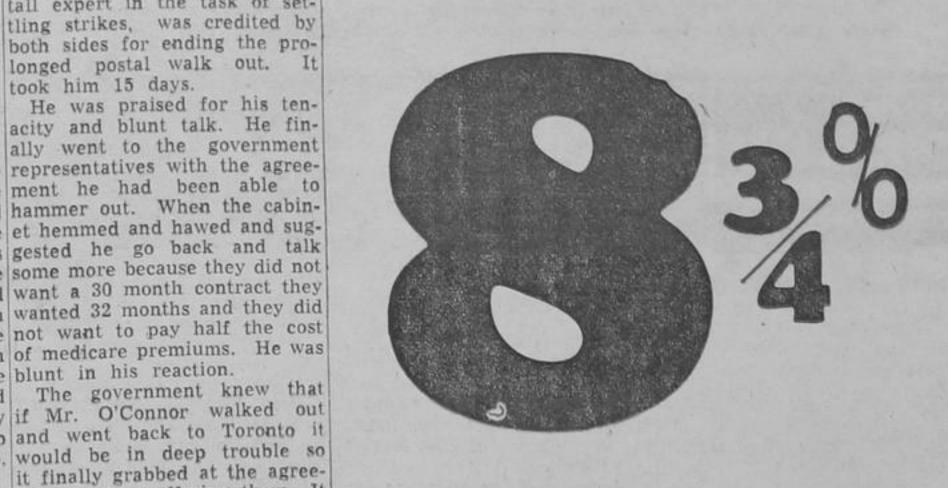
society has arranged a bus trip to the Brantford area where they will tour the Grand River Lands of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy and visit reconstructed Iroquois dwelling of 300 years ago, an elm-bark Long House and the Long House people's They will meet the Faith-

Keepers and will see traditional social dances performed in full

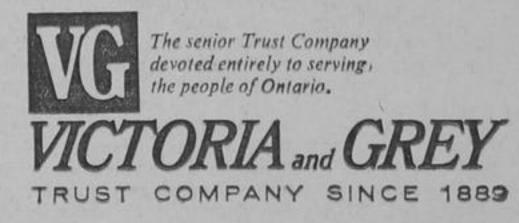
Buses will leave the rear of North York Municipal Building, and arrive back at approximately 6 pm. Cost of the outing is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. To reserve

Those who are not members of the society, but would like to take advantage of the tour are invited to call Membership Chairman, Dalton Mercer, 254 884-3017.

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Art Metal Work; Upholstering; Dry Cleaning A minimum number of fifteen is required to open a class

Classes will begin the week of October 5, 1970 and will be held Mondays or Wednesdays

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