WHAT IS THIS CANADA?

Winning Essay of the Daily Newspaper Editorial Contest Held in Conjunction With the National Diamond Jubilee Celebration

WON GOLD MEDAL

By D. A. McGregor, Editor "Vancouver Province"

What is This Canada?

There is color in all the streets of Canada to-day; there is music in the air and a feeling of elation and expectancy. To-morrow is the great day. Fifty years we waited to celebrate our jubilee, and when the time came we were too busy with a grim task that would not wait. So we toiled along ten years more. And to-morrow, at last, we are to celebrate. There is nothing in the way, this time, and we have made great preparations. The country is swept and tidy, holiday dress is on, and across three thousand miles of woodland, farm and mountain we expect to hear the welkin to-morrow, with our carillons and bands and carronades. To-night, with everything ready to the last flower and motto and the ultimate bit of bunting, would it try our patience too much if someone suggested that we pause for a moment and ask what it is all about? What is this jubilee we are celebrating? What is this Canada that is making such a to-do about her sixtieth birthday? Whence has she come? Whither is she bound?

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What is this Canada? There is a question for Canadians to ponder. If they can not answer it, who can? "A nation," someone suggests, and though that might be debated, we are not in a mood to argue and will let it go. Canada is a nation, then; but surely something more. Take a walk along St. Lawrence Main in Montreal; stroll through the "Ward" in Toronto; saunter by the coal docks at Fort William; look about in Winnipeg's "Little Ukrania;" mix with the crowds on Water street in Vancouver; then visit Ftrachona School and study the faces of the children you see there. How many languages have you heard? A couple of dozen, perhaps. And how many racial types have you met? Between a score and two score. A nation, you say? A league of nations, rather! And you have visited only a few small corners of Canada.

Yes, Canada is a nation. But she is more. She is an experiment. An experiment in nation-building; an experiment in assimilation. About 55 per cent. of our people are of British stock, 28 per cent. are French and the others come from the ends of the earth. Out of this human alloy we are endeavoring to cast a people which will take the same temper as the British steel itself. We have hopes and we have gone some distance with our work—that we shall have here a nation that will be true to British traditions, that will maintain the British respect for law and order and that will play no unworthy part in the British Commonwealth.

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Yes, Canada is a nation and some thing more. And an experiment and something more. She is an achievement. Sixty years ago, working a little in hope and a little in despair, the Fathers founded her. A purple haze of romance is growing up between us and the men of '67 and there is a tendency on our part to look on them as giants of intellect, men of prophetic vision who saw far and moulded truly. But the Fathers were far from supermen. They were very human. They quarrelled and made up, hesitated and fumbled, were elated and despaired. The most hopeful of them saw before Canada only two possible destinies: on the one side disunion, weakness, discontent, and ultimate absorption in the United States; on the other, through the union they promoted, a nation strong enough to direct its own destiny, to remain attached to the British crown if it wished, to win independence if it chose that part, or, if it decided this was best, to enter the American republic on advantageous terms. The Fathers ordered things so that we might choose between independence and British connection. They never dreamed we could have both. But to-day we are British and our own masters. The independence the men of 1867 feared we might one day covet and the British connection they hoped we might maintain are both ours. Canada has achieved the impossible.

Canada is a nation and an experiment and an achievement. And she is something more. She is an inspiration. When the Fathers built up the 147 sections of the British North America Act, sixty years ago, they laid the foundations of the first federation within the British Empire. Never before had the federal principle and the British Constitution been linked together and there was some doubt as to whether they would work in union.

But Canadians have made them work, and now the two machines run as one. Not only that, but a number of other British Dominions have borrowed the idea, and the Canadian achievement has become the inspiration of the British family of nations.

Canada is an experiment, an achievement, an inspiration. She is even more than these. She is a hope, the hope of her sons and daughters, the hope of those who come to her from British and other lands, seeking homes and a competence. She is the hope of the Empire, of which she might almost be called the keystone, since if she should fall away, the Empire would crumble. In a sense, too, she is the hope of civilization. Civilization depends on the maintenance of peace, and two of the most powerful factors for peace are the British Empire and the United States. Canada, as the link and interpreter between these two, occupies a strategic position.

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An experiment, an achievement, an inspiration, the hope of her people, of the Empire and of the nations, whence has Canada come? One might elaborate the answer, but it is easier to put it shortly: up from the day of small things, up rugged and dangerous paths to wide responsibilities and opportunities that make the head swim.

And whither is she going? We are only sixty years from the starting point and too far from the goal to see it clearly. In forty more years, perhaps, or in ninety, it may be possible to answer. Meanwhile, one can only indicate the direction.

The Fathers set the course for us when they decreed union and progress and bequeathed us a task that would try our mettle and develop all our nation-building capacities. They left us high standards, material and spiritual; they left us great resources. They left us a way of discharging responsibilities and assuming greater ones. And if the wisdom of the Fathers has descended with the other things they have devised, it is so we shall go on, maintaining our standards, conserving our resources, faithfully carrying out the tasks that fall to us.

* * *

We look back with pride on the work of our founders and on certain of the work we ourselves have accomplished as their heirs. We have an equal right to look forward with confidence. We have all the advantages the Fathers had, and more. We are of the same race and heirs of the same general form of government. We have their experience to guide us and we have been born to the federal system they had to hammer out for ourselves. Where they succeeded so triumphantly there is no reason why their children should fail. We have a sound basis for our confidence, a reason for courage and hope. But with our hope must be associated a resolution to be worthy of our great destiny, to earn it by industry and economy, and to deserve it by prudence in prosperity and fortitude in the face of trial.

Looking backward with pride and forward with confidence, and having sound reasons for both, why shouldn't Canada celebrate?

Almond Wafers

Half cup sweet butter, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup chopped almonds, 1 egg, 1 cup flour, few grains salt, ½ teaspoon vanilla. Cream butter, add sugar gradually and cream thoroughly. Add vanilla and beaten egg. Mix well. Add flour, salt and almonds. Blend well. Spread out as thin as possible in a buttered pan. Bake in a slow oven (300 degrees) 15 to 20 minutes. Cut immediately into strips, as they become too crisp to cut when cool. These are nice to serve with iced drinks or sherbets these hot days. Also nice for bridge parties or afternoon teas.

Macedoine of Vegetables

One cup cooked carrots cut into cubes, 1 small cauliflower, 1 cup celery, cut up small; 1 cup cooked string beans. Marinate peas, carrots, celery and beans in French dressing. Separate cauliflower in flowerets, marinate separately in French dressing, arrange lettuce leaves in cup shapes on platter and pile lightly vegetables on each leaf, put border of cauliflower around edge. Cut thin stripes of red peppers to decorate.

Sir Henry Mallaby Deeley
Who paid $300,000 to keep "Call Boy," winner of the Derby, in England. American turf men were after 'Call Boy."

Statistician says that every fifth person in the United States owns an automobile, but what he means is that every fifth person in the United States will own an automobile if he ever gets it paid for.

Another Trans-Atlantic Tragedy?

FIRST WOMAN AIR PASSENGER JOINS NUNQUESSER AND COLI

Princess Lowenstein, pioneer woman flyer shown with Capt. Hamilton her Pilot and in flying togs together with Col. Menchin (inset) are added to the "reported missing." The last news seems to be that their plane the "St. Rapheal" was seen by the Belle Isle Light Keeper headed north-west

Saving the Western Straw

Turning a Former Waste into Valuable Chemical Products is Undertaken by University of Nevada

CANADA WILL BENEFIT

The burning of the straw on our Western Prairies will no longer be practised but will be an added source of income to the farmer owing to methods now developed for using it in the production of useful chemicals, paper and straw-board. In a paper contributed to Forbes Magazine (N.Y.), Dr. Robert Stewart, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Nevada, points out that some types of farming are in serious difficulty because of surplus production, and, as a result industry everywhere is being affected by the reduced buying power of the farmer. He writes:

"There is no known practical way of limiting production in farming, as is the case in other lines of industry whenever a surplus threatens to lower the price of the product or glut the market.

"What is urgently needed is the development of new uses other than food for the products of the farms. One interesting development of the past two or three years is the creation of a new industry based upon the industrial utilization of wheat and oat straw, once a burden to many farms. George H. Harrison, of Minnesota, is the pioneer in this development. After numerous experiments, Mr. Harrison has perfected a small plant for the destructive distillation of a mixture of oat and wheat straw whereby the important products in the gas and oil are saved. He claims that one ton of this straw mixture on distillation produces 1,600 pounds of new, useful chemical products worth at least $250!"

One product now obtained from waste farm material is furfurol, which prior to 1922 was only a laboratory curiosity. Says Dean Stewart:

"Strenous efforts would have been necessary to secure more than a few pounds of this substance, and then only at exorbitant prices of $6.50 to $30 per pound. Prior to January, 1922, furfurol could be obtained only in a few-pound lots in a glass container, even at the high price quoted. In 1926 the low price of 15 cents per pound was based on 50 to 60-thousand-pound lots in tank cars! This brief price history indicates the marked development of this farm product in the brief space for four years.

"Furfurol is a substance which penetrates wood with remarkable ease. In the presence of air it darkens and resinifies. It is an antiseptic similar in nature to carbolic acid. It is, therefore, of great value as a germicide and fungicide in the dressing of wounds of valuable trees. It is also used as a substance to flavor tobacco. Owing to its solvent action, high power of penetration and low toxicity it is used as a solvent for shoe leather, dyes and leather dressings. It is an excellent solvent for nitrocellulose, and may find abundant use in the lacquer industry.

"Being an aldehyde, it is readily converted into numerous other chemical compounds having great value and use in industry, such as the production of perfumes, solvents and accelerators in the production of types of rubber goods. Some of its derivatives are of value in the treatment of certain kinds of seed so as to prevent fungus growths. It is the parent substance of a whole group of dye substances whose use can only be conjectured at this time. A large number of other dericatives can easily be prepared and their greater development only awaits larger use to make them important from a commercial point of view."

Waste wheat straw is also to be used in paper manufacture on a commercial scale. A modern pulp and board mill is being erected for that purpose, and will begin operations within the next few months at St. Joseph, Missouri. We quote the following from a press bulletin issued by the Chamber of Commerce of that city:

"The new company is fully protected by patents covering the use of straw for manufacturing board, and tests have demonstrated that straw, due to its long, tough cellular fibres, excels all other fibres as an insulating material and for strength. The demand for high-grade lumber of this type grows greater every year, from the builders of houses, refrigerators and other devices. This will mean a constantly increasing outlet for the straw that now goes to waste in the wheat-growing section. It means an added source of revenue to the farmer, that may bridge the gap between profit and loss in his annual farm operations. For years scientists have been experimenting in an effort to find the material of vegetable origin best adapted to the manufacture of the highest quality material. Wheat straw, cornstalks and other products of the field were tried out, and all were rejected except the straw, which was found to possess qualities superior to any other fibrous growth. The tests demonstrated that straw, when reduced to a pulp and felted into the form of boards, produced a material unusually dependable, of unvarying resistance to heat and cold, virtually fire-resistant, of great structural strength and having unexcelled sound-deadening qualities. The proximity of St. Joseph to the grat wheat-growing sections of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and the Dakotas makes it an ideal location for a plant of this nature. Every year the wheat-growers of the Central West have destroyed by fire straw that possesses a potential value of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Within a very short time this waste by-product of the wheat section will become a source of profit to the farmers of the Central West."

Her Stepfather.

He—"My, how primly you were walking with that man to-day."

She—"I have to mind my step when I'm with him."

He—"But why?"

She—"He's my stepfather."

Sunday School Lesson

Review. Read Psalm 105: 1-8. Golden Text—The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.—Psalm 103: 19.

After a Quarter's study of the early kings of Israel you and your group should test yourselves as to what you have learned and what you have gained as a result of the Quarter's work. Some groups are finding it of value to send to the department of Religious Education for examinations covering a year's work or part of a year's work. It will probably help to gather up the work of the Quarter if you follow some such line of questions as the following:

How had the tribes of Israel been governed before they had a king?

Why did they demand a king?

Why was Samuel apparently so reluctant to grant their request?

Estimate the value of Samuel as a public man.

Show how Saul's life was rendered largely a failure. How might he have made it otherwise?

Tell the story of David and Jonathan so as to show the beauty and devotion of their friendship.

Describe the character of David as shown in outstanding events in his life.

In how far was it true that he was "a man after God's own heart"?

Why has he appealed to all generations as a great king?

What did the reign of David accomplish for Israel?

In how far did Solomon measure up to his father as a man, and as a king?

Describe the social cleavage set at work by Solomon's policy.

What was the outstanding contribution of Solomon's reign to the life of Israel?

Name one great spiritual lesson learned from the life experience of each of these first three kings of Israel.

AIM—To gather up in review the principles and truths learned from the stories of these early kings of Israel and make them an inspiration to personal righteousness.

INTRODUCTION—Who was the first king of Israel? What led the people to change their form of government into a monarchy? What did they hope to gain by it? How many kings ruled over united Israel? Name them in the order of their reigns. What prophets lived during this period?

PRESENTATION—Describe the character of Saul. Wherein did Saul fail? What lessons does the life and career of Saul teach?

Describe the character of David under the following heads: David the shephred; the soldier; the statesman; the friend; the devoted father; the king.

The following themes suggest themselves for either written or oral composition: Killing a Giant; A Great Friendship; Returning Good for Evil; Nathan's Parable; A Man After God's Own Heart; Solomon's Wise Choice; Rehoboam's Blunder.

In what connection were the following quotations used, and cite the full circumstances of the incidents: "Thou art the man"; "I have played the fool"; "I will chastise you with scorpions."

Locate on the map the following places and tell what important events were associated with them in connection with the studies of the Quarter: Jerusalem, Gibeon, Mispah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Shechem, Gibeah, Mahanaim.

APPLICATION—Which of these early kings proved the best and greatest? Which was the weakest and poorest? Which one do you like the best? Why? How have you been helped by these studies?

Fashions

A MODISH DAYTIME FROCK.

Decidedly smart is this chic frock having a tucked vestee, set-in pocket, long or short sleeves, and a trim belt. The plaited skirt front is joined to the bodice, thereby giving a two-piece effect, and the back is plain. No. 1637 is for Misses and Small Women, and is in sizes 6, 18 and 20 years. Size 18 (36 bust) requires 2⅞ yards 39-inch, or 2¼ yards 54-inch material, and ⅝ yard additional 39-inch contrasting for View B. Price 20 cents the pattern.

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Sympathetic.

Rustic (showing stranger over famous cottage)—"Three 'undred years old this be, sir; very 'istorical, and never a stick or stone altered in all them years."

Stranger—"I've a landlord like that, too."

Spiced Plum Butter

Seven pints quartered sour apples, 8 pints of sugar, 2 ounces cinnamon, 1 ounce cloves, 7 pints plums, 1 pint vinegar, 2 ounces allspice. Stew the fruit separately in enough water to prevent burning. Force through colander. Add the other ingredients and cook for 40 minutes. This makes 14 pints of butter.

Catch a Python By His Tail

The monster serpent's interrupted lunch—one antelope, freshly killed—lay beside him. His head wove slowly to and fro as he contemplated the white man and his "boys" from the shadow of an overgreen bush. His supple body, coiled menacingly, looked as big around as a man't thigh to Wynant Davis Hubbard, who relates in Popular Science Monthly that in all the years he had been catching African big game alive, he never tackled a snake as large as this one, and was doubtful as to the most successful method of securing his dangerous quarry. He had heard of noosing pythons, and while he tells us that such a reptile can inflict a severe bite, its most deadly weapon is its tail, which can "strike a blow which will snap a man's legs as if they were match-sticks. Thus, while noosing the snake's head undoubtedly would prevent its escape, it would also leave fifteen to thirty feet of writhing muscle lashing around furiously at the end of the rope!" Immediately, however, another plan suggested itself to Mr. Hubbard:

"We've got to get it by the tail," I thought. Why not use forked sticks, the most reliable catching implements any hunter can have? Quickly my native boys cut four heavy sticks about five feet long and deeply forked at one end; also a long, light pole with which to poke the snake. Then I outlined the plan of attack.

"Mangineera, Kaputang, and Towl," I said to them, "each of you take one stick—give me one, too. Now, I will push the snake with the pole and try to make it straighten out and move away. If it does, we four will approach quietly, and when I shout we will pin the snake down with the forked sticks. I will take the tail, Mangineera, you take the head. Kaputang and Towl will be between. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Inkos," they answered.

"You other boys," I said, turning to the rest of my helpers, "stay close in case something happens."

Approaching within four feet of the coiled mass, quietly so as not to alarm it, I poked it gently with the long pole. If it had lunged at me, I would have had to run. But luck was with us, for the big brute slowly uncoiled and straightened out as it prepared obligingly to crawl away!

"Come on, Mangineera. Gently now, Watch its head, boy." I was almost whispering my directions. All three boys were walking steathily alongside the slowly moving creature.

I got up close to the tail. I could seen the entire shimmering length.

"Now!" I shouted.

Down came the four sticks together. The boys grunted as they put their weights to the poles. I pushed with all my strength. The great snake hunched up in bunches between the sticks, trying to free itself.

I called to the other natives, who had been watching open-mouthed. They rushed up and we had eight more clutching the slippery body. Mangineera slid his hand down and found a hold just back of the flat head.

"All right, now," I ordered, "pick it up." The python must have weighed a hundred pounds. It writhed and buckled; I could feel the powerful back muscles flow under my grip. But finally we managed to stuff it into a huge sack that one of the boys had brought. Then we tied the bag to a pole and carried our prize back to my main animal-catching camp at Tara, Northern Rhodesia. There we took it out and measured it. It was exactly seventeen feet, five inches long!

Seasickness Due to Fear

The power of suggestion is more potent than drugs to combat unpleasant eventualities on the briny deep, according to Dr. W. N. Boldyreff, physiologist of Battle Creek Sanatorium. Says Science Service's Daily Science News Bulletin (Washington):

"Dr. Boldyreff believes that fear is at the bottom of the gastric and intestinal disturbances that produce seasickness. The psychic reaction of fright, in his opinion, inhibits the secretions of digestive juices, which afterward pour forth with greater force irritating the sensitive lining of the intestine, with the consequences which need no elucidation. Suggestion is the rational means of preventing the malady, he declares, while the best method of curative suggestion would be lectures on the causes and prevention of seasickness so that the prospective victims would have their apprehensions removed as far as possible. Training the hands on boats so that tactless comments to passengers suggesting seasickness are reduced to a minimum would likewise be an important factor in lessening its incidence in the physiologist's estimation. Women and children are seasick more than men, but even old sailors who have followed the sea for many years are not immune. Of the dozen or more drugs in current use as remedies, Dr. Boldyreff recommends only atropin for severe cases. Lemon or orange juice sometimes helps, while cigarettes should be packed away for consumption after landing, since nicotin apparently increases predisposition for seasickness."

Exercise in the garden is recommended by a medical authority. Fencing!

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