DEPARTMENT OF
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CANADA

A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

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James Muir,
Editor.

No. 62 -- Wed. Dec. 1, 1943 -- Hell's Gate Canyon

At Hell's Gate Canyon, British Columbia, the sockeye salmon use a ladder to get up the rapid waters of the Fraser River. About half-way between Lytton and Hope, this canyon has achieved international significance through the breeding habits of the salmon.

Years ago during railway construction through the Rockies, a rockslide blocked the Fraser River at Hell's Gate Canyon. The sockeye making their way upstream were confronted by a barrier much too high to jump. Both the United States and Canada are greatly interested in the salmon fishing and as a result, the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission sought to repair the damage.

A fish ladder was hewn from the solid rock at a point where the fish are tossed from the big "boil" in the falls. In addition, whenever a number of salmon gather at the foot of the chute, a huge dip-net is used for assistance thus helping a few more hundred over the hump. The Chairman of the Commission states that 400 to 500 fish use the ladder daily and that engineers are still busy planning more effective fish ladders for the sockeye.

If the proposed two million dollar grant from the American and Canadian Governments is forthcoming, the increased production has been estimated at 100 million cans of first quality fish.

The pack of canned sockeye salmon in British Columbia last year amounted to 154,000 cases, the lowest in many years. Prior to 1913, when the rockslide occurred, as high as two million cases were obtained. The Fisheries and Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that in 1941 there were 39 salmon canneries but in 1942 there were 31.

No. 63 -- Thurs. Dec. 2, 1943 -- Balsa

Almost two years have passed since Ecuador, that little Republic on the North-west coast of South America, severed diplomatic relations with the Axis. During the course of that period she has made a unique contribution to the allied war effort, for it is from that country the United Nations obtain a very large proportion of the balsa wood used in the construction of the famous mosquito bomber and other implements of war. Small quantities are also secured from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezela and Panama.

Balsa wood is prized mainly because of its lightness and strength. The lightest weighs only about half as much as cork and its strength is approximately half that of spruce. It grows at a remarkable rate; in fact with the exception of the wild papaya, a young balsa grows faster than any other form of jungle vegetation. Within a year the tree will attain a height of about 12 feet and in from six to eight years it reaches maturity. To assure the future of the Ecuadoran balsa industry the government has passed a law requiring the planting of two balsa saplings for each tree felled for commercial purposes.

In addition to its importance in the manufacture of aeroplanes, the wood of the balsa is used in the manufacture of life preservers, swimming belts, pick-up buoys, submarine-mine floats, pontoons, radio loud speakers, surf-boards and insulation for refrigeration equipment. Before the war considerable quantities were used by manufacturers of toys and in mannual training rooms of our schools for cutting into models of many descriptions. It is used in making model aircraft.

It is the Spanish that we owe the word balsa. In that tongue it means raft. It seems that early in the sixteenth century when the Spaniards arrived in the tropical regions of the South American continent they found the natives using rafts constructed of very light-weight logs. These early explorers dubbed the wood used in these rafts "balsa" -- a name which has been retained ever since.

No. 64 -- Fri. Dec. 3, 1943 -- Raising the Health Standard

There are many ways in which the average person may assist in raising the standard not only of his own health, but that of the community and ultimately of the nation as a whole. This is a statement which opens up a whole field of enquiry of no little interest.

Take for example just one instance. A survey was made recently of a number of restaurants considered to be using superior cooking and serving devices and technique. This survey revealed that there was an average loss of 45 p.c. of the anti-scurvy vitamin C; and 35 p.c. of thiamin, vitamin B-1, during cooking of all vegetables. This loss is due to the destruction of vitamins by heat and to the fact that the water in which they are soluble is discarded. A further 15 p.c. is lost during the time vegetables must stand before serving. Actually, then, the customer is getting only about one-quarter of the original vitamin content of all cooked vegetables that are served to him.

During the Conference of the Canadian Medical Association at Ottawa, last summer, a most interesting fact in connection with Cancer Research which has a direct bearing on the above was introduced by Dr. Davidson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, in connection with his report on the treatment, prevention and possible cure of the disease.

While still in an experimental stage there is excellent reason to believe that diet may be of great value in reducing the susceptibility of the human race to the disease and quite possibly effecting cures. Foundation for this belief rests on a number of actual cases presented by Dr. Davidson.

In our homes it is easy enough to regulate our diets so that we have a satisfactory balance of vitamins, particularly those mentioned above, thus raising our resistance to disease, this is a matter of voluntary effort. For those who frequent restaurants, a little cooperation between dietician and patron can counterbalance the deficiency which now exists.

No. 65 -- Sat. Dec. 4, 1943 -- Two Great Highways

The Alaska and Trans-Canada highways have both just recently been completed. They represent major feats of engineering ability and achievement and make a valuable addition to the principal lines of communication in Canada. Of great industrial, commercial and tourist value to the country during peacetime they assume major importance in wartime. Supplies of every description are transported from one part of the country to another and thence to the seaboard.

The lines of communication have to be maintained since it is only with adequate transportation facilities that there can be a steady and uninterrupted service between airport and military centre; mine and forest; farm and city. It speaks well for the cooperation between government and labour that these arteries are maintained open and free running thus assuring a maximum in efficiency to all the services.

In Saskatchewan, one of the largest provinces in the Dominion, the provincial government has assumed responsibility for the maintenance of some 7,400 miles of Provincial highway. Of this there are 155 miles surfaced with bituminous treated gravel; 4,287 miles of gravel surfaced highway and 2,958 miles of standard earth grade. There are also 1,200 miles of secondary highways and the Department is doing its best to surmount all difficulties in order to assure satisfactory highway conditions.

No. 66 -- Sun. Dec. 5, 1943 -- An Ounce of Prevention

A rousing game of baseball or a peaceful day at the "old fishing hole" are generally expressed by the term "good sport". But the boy or girl who takes an active part in organized play not only gains a sense of fairness but builds a healthy mind and body. Someone has said that recreation means re-creation.

It must have been an idea such as that which prompted the Federal Government to propose sepnding $250,000 on a physical fitness campaign in Canada, for not all illness is due to old age or accidents. Keeping the human machine in good working order is an undertaking of great national importance. One only needs to glance about to realize that very few people posses a perfect physique, let alone exceptional health. Anyone living near a hospital can see the continuous coming and going of people visiting relatives and friends confined to bed.

At the beginning of the year 1942, the preliminary figures available in a report on the hospitals in Canada published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that there were over 1,115,000 patients under care in public hospitals for acute diseases, an increase of six per cent over the year before. Of this number about 144,000 were newborn babies; their medical history was just beginning.

But as the children are the future citizens, the picture of their illnesses is worthy of study. There are eleven hospitals devoted entirely to boys and girls under 16 years of age. In one year there were over nineteen thousand children treated in these eleven hospitals. Some of them had begun treatment before the year began and are included. The cost of giving this hospitalization was one and a half million dollars or approximately $78 each child per illness. Add to this the value of the time lost from school -- the average stay was about 18 days -- and the problem becomes a serious one.

Health authorities are striving night and day to prove the possibility of preventing sickness and one only needs to glance at the facts regarding the decrease in diptheria cases due to immunization for proof. A physical fitness program is the privilege and duty of every true Canadian.

No. 67 -- Mon. Dec. 6, 1943 -- Rural Electrification

At a short course in agriculture given at one of our Canadian universities, President Wallace claimed that rural electrification was one of the most pressing needs following the war. To anyone who has any knowledge of farm life, this sounds very reasonable and progressive.

So many farmers, carrying an extra heavy load during wartime, haven't even the advantage of working by electric light, a convenience taken for granted by office and factory worker alike. Poking about in the early morning darkness with a lantern and filling pails at a hand-pump, the temperature below zero, aren't exactly con-

ducive to increased efficiency.

And the farmer's wife? What of her extra duties, for she too has felt the loss of help. The wood-box replaced by an electric stove would be such a help not to mention an electric iron and an electric washing machine. She wouldn't have to worry about the children pouring over books by lamp light, afraid that eager Johnny would be so disappointed if his eyes prevented him from becoming a daring pilot.

Even a radio to keep in touch with the rest of the world would mean so much. An interesting moving picture film once a fortnight, probably shown in the school-house or town hall, would make rural people feel that they are not actually forgotten by the march of time.

Only 20 per cent of farm homes in Canada have electric lights. Imagine how amazed people in a city or town would feel if only every fifth house in a hundred had electric lights. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics there was 733,-000 farms in Canada. What a field for enlightenment!

No. 68 -- Tues. Dec. 7, 1943 -- Your Dollar in the Community

"As sure as death and taxes" seems to be as positive a way of affirming a statement as any. From ancient days the word tax has carried a burden of meaning but today we are interpreting it in a new light. The slave was forced to keep his nose to the ground by numerous taxes on everything and anything. Even the air he breathed depended upon his ability to pay for his living quarters. Gradually the urge for better conditions spurred the average person to demand a value in return for the money he handed over. He had a right to have a decent home and an education for his children.

To carry out the necessary reforms a small group of men had to be appointed to make laws and regulations and to see that they were carried out. A city or a town might be the area administered or it might be a large area sparcely populated. Thus we have the term municipal affairs appearing which simply means the common laws for the good of the citizens of the city, town, village or wider rural area. Population usually governs the boundaries within which a municipal council works. Although in Quebec we find the old ecclesiastical division into parishes in the days of the first colonists has been used for civil purposes in that province.

Today every province has its own interpretation of what a municipality should be, the only thing in common being the words urban and rural. Even then the defi-nition for rural varies widely. For example, rural municipalities are called town-ships in Ontario, districts in British Columbia, municipal districts in Alberta, counties in New Brunswick, municipalities in Nova Scotia, parishes and townships in Quebec and rural municipalities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. More will be said about the provincial municipalities later.

No matter what the section covered is called, it still levies taxes for its work. The Finance Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that in 1941 the taxes levied by municipalities in Canada was over 249 million dollars. That means that the citizens in the four thousand or more incorporated municipalities were asked to pay for better public buildings, schools, roads, bridges, police and fire protection and so on. The sad part of the story is that not all of the money collected on this account can be spent on going ahead but must be used to catch up on arrears and keep the "ship of state" on an even keel.

No. 69 -- Wed. Dec. 8, 1943 -- Mutual Aid Insignia

If you should see a round insignia in red, blue and gold stamped on an article made in Canada, you are looking at the Mutual Aid Insignia -- a maple leaf surrounded by "Canada" written in three languages, English, Russian and Chinese.

Until 1943 shipments of Canadian war materials to Allied countries were made through Great Britain and the United States. Last year Parliament placed one billion dollars in the hands of the Mutual Aid Board to buy war materials and supplies for the basic needs of the United Nations. Now foodstuffs, metals, weapons and armaments bearing the red, blue and gold sign of Canadian workmanship appear all over the world. In fact, Canada has become the fourth producing nation of the United Nations.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce told Canadians recently that our export trade in 1943 was the highest in our history -- approximately ten million dollars a day. Over 70 per cent of exports were sent to Allied countries to carry on total war. Shipments to the Middle and Far East were enormous while the exports of munitions to Russia were of unprecendented value.

Tanks, trucks and gun carriers jumped from 26 million dollars in 1939 to 472 million in 1943. Guns amounting to only a few thousand dollars in 1939 were up to 144 million. Cartridges and shells were three times as great in the same period.

Foodstuffs, such as wheat, flour, canned fish, bacon, cheese, processed milk and eggs were 183 million dollars in 1939 but 482 million in 1943.

No. 70 -- Thurs. Dec. 9, 1943 -- Reconditioning for Employment

Work or useful employment is the saving grace for most people. Especially so is it for the boys and girls who have been discharged from the armed services. Keyed to high tension, engaged in great activity, and living many years in one, creates a human dynamo which in time of hospitalization is difficult to recondition to a less energetic life.

The Department of Pensions has recently issued a statement that about 79 thousand members discharged from the armed forces had been given employment. Some of these people have been able to fit into work of a permanent nature while others are placed in occasional or seasonal work.

The majority of them are medical cases varying in disability. Many are quite young and have a future ahead which they must face handicapped by physical unfitness. Military hospitals throughout Canada have an enormous task upon their hands in preparing broken bodies and minds for employment in years ahead. When disclosed after the war, the miracles of healing and the amazing discoveries in medical science will be a revelation of man's abilities.

The latest figures from the Department of National Defence published in the annual report on hospitals in Canada by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics were for 1940. These figures, although somewhat dated and considerably lower than are the more recent, give some idea of the work being done for our fighting sons and daughters. At that time there were over 70 military hospitals listed and 110 Royal Canadian Air Force.

No. 71 -- Fri. Dec. 10, 1943 -- Dogfish Aid Night Fliers

Experiments have been carried out in British Columbia with the livers of dogfish to determine the vitamin A content, the highly valued vitamin for prevention of night blindness. Results have been promising; considerable quantities of Vitamin A were found and also a little Vitamin D.

A flyer whose eyes normally require 14 seconds to recover from a blinding flash can reduce this time to perhaps eight seconds by taking sufficient vitamin A. A plane moving at more than 300 miles an hour can dodge death by the fraction of a second.

The dogfish are small, littoral sharks which prey on the fish of the shallower waters near the shore. They are about three feet long and always ready to eat anything and everything. They travel in "wolf packs", doing considerable damage by gobbling up other fish of economic value. As a food they are not popular but have been used to make fertilizer and oil. Another name for them is grayfish.

The livers are sold according to their vitamin value which is measured by the number of units of vitamin A found in a gram of oil. The location where caught has an effect on the value and there is a variation in vitamin content between the male and female livers. One third of the Canadian oil must be sold in the Dominion, the rest may find a market anywhere else. Usually it goes to the United States.

In 1941 the number of pounds of dogfish or grayfish marketed on the Pacific Coast for liver oil was 1,950,000 at a value of $531,000, the following year it was 2,800,000 pounds at $1,178,000. This information comes from a report published by the Fisheries and Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 72 -- Sat. Dec. 11, 1943 -- Canada's Trade with India

The director of the Indian Supply Mission, K.A.D. Narogi, on his recent visit to Ottawa, voiced the belief that trade with India can assume greater proportions; that there is a tremendous market for Canadian goods in India. In his opinion, Canada has so far given his country a "fine deal" and the future looks very promising.

In spite of the shortage of shipping space, trade between the two countries has greatly increased in the last three or four years. It is amazing to find that exports to India have increased in value by close to 163 million dollars while imports have shown a gain of eleven and a half million.

The exports, of course, are mainly of a nature essential to the war effort. Rubber and articles made from rubber such as tires; freight automobiles and parts; guns, rifles and other firearms as well as cartridges, are the leading commodities. Aircraft and parts have made their appearance in trade figures and a considerable increase in value is shown for ships and vessels.

It is interesting to note that in one year exports of silk stockings dropped from over 3,000 dozen pairs to about 100 and that fish didn't appear at all. Newsprint paper in the same period dropped to about half the amount, although wood pulp figures made their appearance. Newsprint was one item Mr. Narogi mentioned particularly. Farm implements and machinery was another, the figures of which were greatly reduced.

The imports consist chiefly of tea, (about one-third of the value of all imports); piece goods of flax, hemp and jute; cotton and wool. Conspicuous by their absence in the latest available figures are rice and crude rubber.

Figures used in this article are from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 73 -- Sun. Dec. 12, 1943 -- Canadian Farms Pinch-Hit for English Airfields

More than 250,000 acres of land in England have been used for airfields. Bigger fleets of larger planes are making further demands on the outlying English countryside. In fact, a newsdespatch claims that a point is approaching where suitable ground will be exhausted. In 1938 there were more than 100 military airfields in operation. The number now is a secret.

An airfield in England has its effect on Canada in several ways. It may be used by the boys who a few years ago ploughed long, straight furrows in the Canadian West. These boys have to be fed; an extra demand on John Bull's cupboard. Then again, what might be rows of vegetables for English tables, is now strips of tarmac.

Canadian agriculturists, farmers and economists have taken action to meet the situation and prepare for present and future demands for food. People must eat. As requests come in from the United Kingdom for an increased volume of one product or another, plans are made to encourage Canadian output. For instance, if more peas and beans are needed and there is enough wheat in storage to take care of probable demands, then Canada will turn her fields into more vegetable gardens. In the United States, on the other hand, farmers have been asked recently to increase their wheat acreage by 14 million acres to prevent the possibility of greater imports.

The Agriculture Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has prepared figures for an objective of production needed in 1944. No increase in wheat acreage is recommended but the production of coarse grains and oil-bearing seed crops, as well as peas, beans and corn is regarded as more urgent and it is suggested that a high proportion of the land in Western Canada be summerfallowed again in 1944. Canada's wheat acreage in 1943 was 17,488,000 acres, the summerfallow acreage 20,637,000.

No. 74 -- Mon. Dec. 13, 1943 -- Beti ka bap

"Beti ka bap" is a term of abuse in India meaning "father of daughter". Even today the birth of a daughter among backward people in India is considered a misfortune. In a short account of the Census operations in 1941 for India, the writer, a member of the Bombay Political Department, had good reason to believe that female infanticide is still practised. In one area alone he computed the loss of girl babies at 50 per cent. He was corrected by the chieftain who put it at 80 per cent. However, signs of ending this barbarous practice are in evidence.

The census enumerators in India have a more exasperating time of it than those who take our own. For instance, in one province in 1921 there were 644,000 children between the ages of 0-5 but in 1931 this same group who would now be 10-15 years old, numbered 780,000. Instead of showing a loss through death or migration, it has added 136,000 to its ranks! To add to the mystery, by 1941, the same group, now 20-25 years old, had increased to 1,210,000 -- almost double the original figure.

It seems that parents regard it unlucky to mention how many children they have: the gods might think they were boasting and punish them by taking the youngsters away. Some women blandly admitted they couldn't remember.

How different things could be. A country, such as our own, regards children as a national asset and infant mortality a serious problem. In a space of twenty years, the number of infants dying in the first year of their lives was cut from thirteen and a half thousand to eight thousand in 1942, according to the Vital Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 75 -- Tues. Dec. 14, 1943 -- 1944 Edition of the Official Handbook "Canada"

The publication is announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the 1944 edition of the Official Handbook "Canada". This issue covers the present situation in the Dominion from Atlantic to Pacific, the weight of emphasis being placed on those aspects that are currently of most importance. So far as space permits, all phases of the country's economic organisation are dealt with and statistics are brought up to the latest possible date. The text is accompanied by a wealth of illustrative matter that adds to the interest of the subjects treated.

The introduction reviews Canada's war program, covering the growth and activities of her Armed Forces, the financial steps that have been taken, and the governmental organizations that have been created with their principal activities. It also reviews Canada's economic condition at the close of 1943. This introduction is followed by a special article dealing with the Effects of the War on Canadian Forestry. This article describes the extent of the country's forest resources, the present rate of depletion and how our forest products have aided the cause of the United Nations.

The chapter material reviews in detail economic conditions under various headings including population, survey of production, forest resources, fur production, fisheries production, mines and minerals, water power, manufacturers, transportation and communications, labour, employment, unemployment, construction, external trade, internal trade, prices, cost of living, public finance, currency, banking, insurance and education. All sections of the handbook are well illustrated by up-to-date half-tone reproductions.

The price of the publication is 25 cents per copy, which charge covers merely the cost of paper and actual press work. The special price concession granted in the past to teachers, bona fide students and ministers of religion has been discontinued in view of the necessity for diverting as large a proportion as possible of Dominion funds to the War, and to the fact that, so far as possible, the sales policy of Government publications should be self-sustaining as regards printing materials used.

Applications for copies should be made to the King's Printer, Ottawa, and not to the Dominion Statistician. Postage stamps are not acceptable, and applications must be accompanied by a postal note or by a coin enclosed between two squares of thin cardboard gummed together at the edges.

No. 76 -- Wed. Dec. 15, 1943 -- No Typhus in Canada

Cleanliness is characteristic of Canadian people as a rule and it pays dividends. In contrast we have many countries throughout the world, especially those

that have felt the full weight of the war's fury, where health standards are low and personal pride in sanitation has lost its meaning. Typical is the condition in Italy today and we find the Allied troops giving all possible aid to curb the typhus epidemic in Naples. A news report says that 30,000 Italians are being treated daily with anti-vermin powders. The army hasn't one case.

This disease is carried from person to person by the bite of a louse or other vermin such as a rat. At one time it was called "camp fever" or "jail fever" because it occurred in these places when filth accumulated and rats and lice thrived. The army today has a hygiene and sanitation staff whose duty it is to check the purity of the water supplies, the cookhouse and cooking, incinerators, laundries, clothing, bedding, billets, ventilation, prevention of disease, baths and care of the feet.

During the Thirty Years' War, typhus killed more men than did the enemy. One out of every ten in Napoleon's retreating army from Moscow was a victim of typhus as was the ratio of casualties among soldiers in the Crimean War.

War conditions tend to produce the typhus epidemics because in peace time they rarely occur, although in 1846-48 one million people died in England and 300,000 in Ireland during a famine. No doubt malnutrition plays a great part in the lack of energy which a person needs to keep surroundings sanitary.

Typhus is practically unknown in Canada, according to the Vital Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, as no cases or deaths have been reported as such.

No. 77 -- Thurs. Dec. 16, 1943 -- White Cliffs of Dover

Today boys and girls in Canadian schools are writing the history of early England on blackboards with chalk from the white cliffs of Dover. But history is also in the making when these same boys and girls are asked to be more careful in their use of this writing material.

Stretching from the cliffs of southern England northward to Flamborough Head, about two-thirds of the way up the eastern coast, are great beds of chalk and chalky limestone. The greater part of this deposit is the monument of marine dwellers of many, many years ago. Their remains form the basic ingredient in making the chalk we use in school.

In peace time, England mined about six million tons of chalk. Some of it was used for cement-making; when separated from the grit by washing, it was made into powder for cleaning silver and making putty. But now the manufacturing plants are being used to make war materials, so naturally our supply will be somewhat curtailed.

Canada has no noticeable supply of chalk although one of the substitutes which might be used, talc, is produced. The latest available figure (1940) from the Mining Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, shows that England sold us slightly over nine thousand tons of chalk.

No. 78 -- Fri. Dec. 17, 1943 -- Abandoned or Idle Farms

If Canada's doors are going to be opened to people seeking new homes, we naturally ask what kind of work will our new neighbours do and where will they want to

settle. Will they fit in with our Canadian ways and what can we learn from them? As Canada is primarily an agricultural country, more than likely a great majority of newcomers will take up land.

Back in the 1800's, near the close of the century, immigration was greatly desired to populate the vast stretches of western plains. The means of transportation was there and glowing pictures of Canada's natural wealth, especially in wheat, were widely advertised. A big country with a big future!

Several letters written by prominent men of that time to British people at home, apparently tried to dispel the conception of Canada as a country where people were clad in furs, wore snowshoes and lived in ice houses.

The first from Colonel Sir C. E. Howard, reads in part: "But it is from Winnipeg westwards that one commences to appreciate the capabilities of the great Western Continent of Britain. Englishmen do not realize them ..... Vast though as are the cornfields, it is but a tithe of what might be produced if British men and British money were to come here instead of going to the United States..."

The second letter, written by Sir George Baden-Powell, has the following comments: "... If we look to Manitoba itself we shall find that in fertility of soil and healthiness of climate it is far superior to the great areas immediately to the south, in all of which, nevertheless, great prosperity and progress have been secured by thousands upon thousands of settlers. Everyone knows that the soil and climate of Manitoba produce grain crops in greater abundance than any other equal area of the world's surface. Without doubt it is a country which can easily rival and surpass the very best portions of Northern Europe, where with colder summers but not less rigourous winters, the human race has prospered so well, both physically and commercially ..."

The third letter is from Michael Davitt, M.P. Though the 'Great Lone Land' is no longer a terra incognita to the reading public at home, there is not enough known about Manitoba, Assiniboia (then the lower part of what is now Saskatchewan), Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia by the people of the United Kingdom. ... Want of fuller information is not the only obstacle to the creation of a deeper interest in the subject of these countries. There is a good deal which must be unlearned about Manitoba and its adjacent Provinces before a true estimate of their worth and attractiveness can be formed ..."

Again we need more people on the land. From the last census we learn that there were thirty-two and a half thousand abandoned or idle farms in Canada. These farms, at some time in the past, have been used, wholly or in part, for growing crops and now are reverting to prairie or bushland with buildings valued at over five million dollars deteriorating with every change in the weather. Over one-fifth of the five million acres is improved land and the value of these farms runs slightly over twenty-two million dollars.

No. 79 -- Sat. Dec. 18, 1943 -- Fewer Pin-Ups?

Whether the pin is to fasten a beautiful girl's picture on the walls of a barracks or to hold together her younger sister's wearing apparel, it has now assumed a place of respect in our everyday life. Well it might for there has been a drop in production. Pins are made from iron, steel and brass wire. These are metals essential in the production of more important things today.

Pins found in Egyptian and Roman ruins were made from bone or bronze. In

England in the 15th century, they were made from iron but the greater part of the trade was centred in France. By the 17th century, London and Birmingham were manufacturing them. At first the pins were all made by hand and not until 1838 were patents taken out leading to the modern methods.

All the machinery used now is automatic. From the cutting machine come lengths of wire cut from a reel. A pair of nippers holds the blank while a head is punched. The points are ground by a circular file revolving at a high speed and the finished pin falls into a receiving pan. These are the straight pins -- two to four hundred made in a minute. A sticking machine holding the heads in rows, presses them into folded paper.

Safety pins require a more elaborate procedure. In the first operation a continuous strip of metal enters one side of a machine and pointed stems in the other. From the strip of metal as it passes under one tool after another, the cap is formed. Then comes the business of joining the two parts. Tools with almost human action pick up one pointed piece, put a coil in the length of wire and push the ends into the cap. The cap is pressed down on the blunt end and the completely formed pin is thrown out of the machine.

Production in 1941 was valued at ninety-nine and a half thousand dollars, in 1942 it was thirty-three and a half thousand, according to the General Manufacturers Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 80 -- Sun. Dec. 19, 1943 -- Fishermen Study Fish

Today is Sunday and six months from now many a worker will be sitting basking in the sun, nursing a fishing rod mirrored in quiet waters. Not every fisherman learned how to catch fish using the finest reel on the market. More than likely a willow-rod and a piece of string, and maybe a bent pin, gave the grandest thrill to the proud possessor of a three-inch perch. But experience makes demands and as the years roll along, better knowledge of fishing tackle and its use opens up bigger and better fields of adventure.

However, not all fishing is for fun. The fact remains that greater knowledge of the fish themselves, their peculiarities, living habits, diseases and even their fish-appeal to man's palate is a matter of profitable study and is many a man's livelihood. So it is not surprising that the Dominion Department of Fisheries has again placed $50,000 at the disposal of educationists for special programs of study for fishermen. In these study groups opportunities for marketing are discussed and new developments encouraged as well as finding the solution to local problems.

In the Maritimes, the Extension Department of the University of St. Francis Xavier carries out special educational work by sending out men to the fishing areas. Trained people from the High School of Fisheries at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatiere cover the Gaspe and North Shore districts of Quebec and in British Columbia the work is carried on by the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia.

Fishing is a great industry with over 29 million dollars invested in boats, nets, traps, piers and wharves, etc. It employs 61,000 men, 48,000 of whom carry on their work along the coasts and on the sea, the rest fishing in inland waters. These figures do not include those engaged in processing fish but only those catching the fish.

Improvement in methods and knowledge of markets will not only show results in

the financial outcome but better the standards of those who brave the whims of Napture for a living.

No. 81 -- Mon. Dec. 20, 1943 -- Canadian Diamond Cutters

Before the war, eighty percent of all the diamond workers in the world were in Antwerp and seventeen percent in Amsterdam. When the Germans occupied the Low Countries many of the cutters sought refuge in other lands. The number of these tradespeople increased from 200 to 3,000 in Palestine, from 300 to 3,500 in the United States and from 150 to 500 in South Africa. Canada also has benefited by the arrival of Dutch and Belgian artisans and Canadians are becoming master diamond cutters.

A Canadian importer who was a diamond cutter in his native city of Antwerp states that Canadian-cut diamonds are rivalling the European product. The reason given is that three of the very complicated operations have been broken down into smaller ones. By so doing, each step becomes specialized and consequently more efficient.

More and more diamonds are needed to satisfy the ever increasing demand in war industries. Drills, files, tools and wheels used in polishing depend upon the hardness of diamonds or diamond dust for their effectiveness. So essential to war needs is this trade that it is of extreme importance to keep raw diamonds from enemy hands and the skilled workers on the Allied side.

An example of this is the agreement between the Belgian and London interests to prevent the sale of rough diamonds in Mexico and Brazil. Large, high-grade stones which were once cut in London and sent to India for finishing, are sent to that country no longer because of the danger of them falling into Japanese hands through underhand sales by natives.

It is the hope of the Belgian diamond industry to induce all the emigrant diamond workers and merchants to return to Antwerp when the war is over. Meanwhile it strives to restrict the growth of competitive cutting industries elsewhere.

World sales by the Diamond Syndicate in 1943 have been estimated at 10 million dollars. Canada's import of unset diamonds has shown an increase from British South Africa and Palestine. The annual trade report of the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows a comparison for the figures of 1941 and 1942. From British South Africa the increase in value was $48,000 and from Palestine $252,000. Fewer were brought in from the United Kingdom and the United States.

No. 82 -- Tues. Dec. 21, 1943 -- Musical Instruments

Both music and language employ sound as their medium and while a person talking to himself would be regarded as "odd" to say the least, another humming a tune or playing a mouth organ would be called musical or even gifted. Both would be expressing themselves by sound. A soldier in the trenches, whistling a tune, a sailor hunched up in his hammock squeezing music out of an accordion or an airman fondly coaxing "Home Sweet Home" out of a piccolo, each is expressing his innermost feelings in music.

The emotions expressed on a musical instrument today are the same as those felt by a Chinese playing on a seh or zitherlike instrument in the Chou dynasty, 255 B.C.

The oldest cultivated music systems are those of India and China. Strangely enough at one time in the latter country, prime ministers were selected according to their skill in music. The Chinese language is based on tones, one syllable or lu has twelve inflections. Naturally one who could accurately strike the right pitch would facilitate the affairs of state by correct interpretation of sound.

But most people like to play something, carrying out the feeling of rhythm with their hands. Drums have always been favourites and have played a great role in the communication system of Africa, the West Indies and Mexico. Flutes and musical bows used to convey messages between lovers in the South Seas, parts of western North America and in certain regions of Africa. The pipes of Pan and the conch shell trumpet are foreign to Canadians but their descendants are with us. With changes in shape and materials, pianos, organs, violins, saxaphones, etc. have evolved for the use of the musically inclined.

Music has its part to play in morale as can be easily imagined from the increase of exports of musical instruments to Newfoundland from $9,000 in 1941 to $14,000 in 1942. Phonographs and radios would be a boon to defence outposts. A report on the production of musical instruments from the General Manufacturers Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows that there is still a source of supply. In 1942 the manufacture of upright and grand pianos remained about the same as in the year before but there were about 150 more in the process of manufacture. The value of repair work took a jump of about $22,000.

No. 83 -- Wed. Dec. 22, 1943 -- No More Camphor?

Camphor is used not only to rub on one's chest to prevent colds but is an ingredient in perfuming soaps and other compounds. It is indispensable in manufacturing celluloid. But we can't get any more camphor, that is real camphor, because Japan owns the camphor trees. These trees are found exclusively in Formosa, Japan and South China.

At the beginning of the century when the Japanese took possession of Formosa, they organized the camphor industry as a state monopoly. Naturally prices went up which in turn led to the production of a synthetic product in other countries. Attempts were also made to grow the trees in Ceylon, India, the Philippines, Algeria, Italy and Florida.

In Florida results were not very promising. An insect which could not be controlled attacked the young trees. So the artificial camphor gained ground. Turpentine could be used for its production and the pine trees didn't have to be destroyed to obtain it as in the case with the camphor tree. All parts of this tree are used but the best results are obtained from those at least fifty years old. In Japan where labour is cheap, the whole tree is chipped by hand and the pieces boiled with water in primitive stills. The trees themselves are short, grow to about 20 to 30 feet in circumference at the base and may live to be 100 years old.

Crude camphor has been exported by Japan for the last fifty years mainly to the United States and Germany. Canada, before the war, imported about 10,000 pounds from Japan, 32,500 pounds from Germany and 14,000 pounds from the United States. Not all of this was the natural product, some was synthetic. Now the United States is the only source of supply and more than likely the 119,000 pounds imported in 1942 were synthetic camphor. These trade figures are based on a report from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 84 -- Thurs. Dec. 23, 1943 -- Where Does the Soap Go?

Many youngsters would not feel badly if a cake of soap were not forthcoming; others approaching the "particular or fussy age" would most certainly voice a complaint. Canadian children as a rule are taught that cleanliness is a personal duty towards the welfare of all and when we read of the German authorities cancelling extra soap rations to Netherlands children under seven, soap assumes a new importance in our everyday life. Small children and infants are heavy users of this homely commodity especially when it comes to keeping clothing clean and fresh. What will happen to the European children from a hygienic point of view?

An ordinary bar of soap doesn't betray its kinship to a stick of dynamite but the two have been very close relatives. At one time in their preparation they shared the same vat -- as soap and glycerine -- glycerine later forming the base for dynamite, nitro-glycerine and cordite. The by-product or second cousin in the family soap tree has now assumed the more favoured place in world affairs and every ounce of explosives is doing a fine clean-up job.

However, soap is not a luxury product but a necessity. Scientists in the soap laboratories are working very hard to provide cleansers that will suit military needs. Soaps that will remove grease and grime from land operations will not always prove satisfactory at sea where salt water is used. Then again the need for a product that will keep, under all weather conditions, is very important. Naturally, economy has to be considered. Another cause for headaches is the loss of the sources of oils such as cocoanut and olive and the search for substitutes.

Ships travelling to Newfoundland carried over four million pounds more soap in 1942 than in 1941 and this seems to be typical wherever military camps have been established. Countries which before the war took very little, if any of this product, now show considerable increases in their imports. This may be due to the increase of personnel for defence or to the closing of European markets. For example, British Guiana took over ten times as much soap as in the previous year; Haiti over seventy times as much, and so on. In fact exports of soap from Canada jumped from three million pounds in 1941 to twelve million in 1942, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 85 -- Fri. Dec. 24, 1943 -- Value of Salvage

Housewives all across the Dominion are contributing to the war effort in a very real way. In fact they are the front line forces in the army of salvage workers, for the home is the source of vast quantities of waste paper, rags, fats, bones, rubber tires, rubber tubes and a host of other materials that are filling an urgent war need.

Today, a great nation-wide drive for the salvage of waste paper is under way, for the paper shortage is more acute now than at any time since the war began. In this drive many thousands of school children are taking part. Every scrap can be used. Waste paper, especially brown paper, is now more urgently needed because of the scarcity of pulpwood together with the increased demands by the armed forces of Canada and other United Nations.

Wartime ingenuity has developed hundreds of uses for this salvage, such as in the manufacture of containers for shells, plastics, medical kits, emergency rations, grenades, gas masks, air force emergency packs, bomb fins and rings. Paper containers for dehydrated foodstuffs are being used in large quantities in addition to

millions of paper board containers being sent overseas.

Some 1,750 voluntary salvage committees operating throughout Canada gathered and marketed more than 441,789,000 pounds of salvage materials during the 31 months from May 1941 to November 1943, according to the Department of National War Services. This is a tremendous saving to the country and when viewed in the light of new materials saved it is all the more impressive.

Worked out in the form of an average per thousand of the population, the province of Manitoba led the Dominion with 61,884 pounds, followed closely by Ontario with 61,503. British Columbia had 36,175 pounds, Alberta 31,368, Prince Edward Island 28,407, New Brunswick 21,270, Quebec 20,986, Saskatchewan 20,305 and Nova Scotia 17,724 pounds.

No. 86 -- Sat. Dec. 25, 1943 -- Christmas Tree Gum

More than gifts may be found on the Christmas tree on this day of days, December 25. Little blobs of a clear resinous substance, which may quite easily "gum up the works", have oozed out of the scars left by trimming the tree.

The "Canadian Doctor" published an informative article on the therapeutic value of Christmas trees and plants in medicine, turpentine being one of the products mentioned. A legend about the fir tree is also given. It seems that once this tree bloomed and produced fruit freely, but Eve picked its fruit and the leaves shrivelled up into needles. When the first Christmas Eve came it bloomed again. Whether the globules of resin could be considered fruit is a stretch of imagination.

Commercially, resin is melted in a still, the turpentine is driven off as volatile oil and the hard, brittle substance remaining is called rosin. Liquid resin of the balsam fir is employed in every laboratory for mounting microscopic specimens.

The solvent property of turpentine is common knowledge to all who use paints and varnishes. Perhaps not so familiar is its use in relieving pain where rubbing is necessary to stimulate circulation. Oil of turpentine has been used as an antiseptic and a disinfectant, the latter to disinfect the skin before an operation. Inhalations are used to cause coughing and expectoration and to check the growth of bacteria in the lungs and the bronchi.

Canada has only one firm producing turpentine, and we import about one million gallons from the United States every year, according to the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 87 -- Sun. Dec. 26, 1943 -- Our Mining Industry

The Canadian mining industry holds an important place in the war plans of the United Nations, providing an inexhaustable supply of most of the minerals and metals that are so necessary in the fight for world freedom. Prior to the war, Canada had developed a large base metal mining, smelting and refining industry which was well equipped in technical personnel and was prepared for the great expansion it was called upon to make when war was declared.

In order to keep pace with the ever-increasing demands for strategic metals, new processes for the refining of ores were developed, recovery operations at large

base metal mines were extended, old mines were again brought into production and survey parties intensified their search for new and greater sources of supply, for the demands of war are insatiable. By the end of 1943 Canada's mineral production had grown in value to $524,000,000 from $475,000,000 in 1939, an increase of 10.6 per cent.

However, due mainly to a decrease in the production of gold, the value of minerals produced in 1943 was $42,300,000 lower than in 1942. Metals as a group totalled $357,000,000, a decrease of nine per cent from 1942; fuels, including coal, natural gas, peat and crude petroleum declined to $90,000,000 from $92,000,000; other non-metallic minerals were recorded at $36,400,000 compared with $36,600,000; and clay products and other structural materials, $40,400,000 compared with $45,700,000.

Mineral production by provinces was as follows in 1943, totals for 1942 being in brackets: Ontario, $230,000,000 ($259,000,000); Quebec, $101,000,000 ($104,000,000); British Columbia, $68,000,000 ($77,000,000); Alberta, $49,000,000 ($47,000,000); Nova Scotia, $30,000,000 ($33,000,000); Saskatchewan, $27,000,000 ($21,000,000); Manitoba, $13,000,000 ($14,000,000); New Brunswick, ($3,700,000 ($3,600,000); Yukon Territory, $1,600,000 ($3,400,000); and the Northwest Territories, $2,200,000 ($3,900,000).

No. 88 -- Mon. Dec. 27, 1943 -- What has Happened to Gold

At the beginning of the war gold mining companies were encouraged to maintain or increase their production since gold was of great assistance in making needed purchases in foreign countries. As the war progressed and the need of the Allied Nations for base metals and other materials of war increased, the production of gold became relatively less important.

When the United States placed gold mining in that country in a non-essential category and ordered the closing of the mines, the influence was immediately felt in Canada. Canadian gold mines soon found it difficult to obtain supplies from the United States; gold mining was placed low on the priority lists to receive Canadian process supplies and equipment; and the mines were placed in a low category for labour. Also many left the mines to enlist in the armed forces. Thus the Canadian output of gold declined. Nevertheless, several promising gold prospects were uncovered during 1943 and only await the turn of events to begin extensive development.

Despite the decline in output, gold is still by far the most important item on the list of minerals produced in Canada from the standpoint of value, the 1943 total being 3,649,671 fine ounces valued at $140,512,334, the lowest in any year since 1935. In 1942 the total was 4,841,306 fine ounces valued at $186,390,281.

No figures on the production of base metals in Canada have been released since 1939, but the combined value of copper, nickel, lead and zinc in 1943 was $180,000,000, which was 7.6 per cent more than in 1942, indicating that Canada's base metal mines have measured up to the job they set out to do. Another group of strategic metals, including antimony, bismuth, cadmium, chromite, cobalt, magnesium, molybdenite, tin and tungsten, reached $7,080,000 as compared with $4,339,000 in 1942. Another group, comprising arsenic, iron ore, mercury, selenium, tellurium and titanium ore, increased in value to $8,060,000 from $6,133,000. Silver production at 17,231,000 fine ounces marked a decrease in output of 16.7 per cent.

No. 89 -- Tues. Dec. 28, 1943 -- Base Metals one of our War Monuments

When war broke out Canada's base metal mines stood out in importance. Immediately the British Government contracted to purchases all of Canada's copper, lead and zinc not needed in this country. Plans were made to increase the production of the operating mines and to locate, develop, and bring to fruition all likely properties that prior to the war were having difficulty in making a profit. The accomplishments of Canada's base metal mining companies during the present struggle will stand as a monument for many years to come.

But in the manufacture of war machines, many other metals which were produced in Canada in minor quantities or not at all, were needed. Small stocks were available and as the sea lanes became narrower and shipping conditions more dangerous, it was increasingly evident that mineral deposits containing such metals should be speedily located and developed at any cost. A Metals Controller was appointed to guide the production of base metals into the proper channels, to transfer the supply for civilian consumption to war industry, and in conjunction with similar bodies at Washington and London, to do everything possible to develop the production of the more or less rare metals and to increase the supply of certain industrial minerals.

As a result, a large mercury mine was established in British Columbia, the production of which was sufficient for Canada's needs with a surplus for export. Tungsten, known to occur in association with gold, was recovered where possible and plans were made to bring the Emerald mine in British Columbia into production. By the time this mine was ready to produce, the tungsten situation had eased and the mine was closed down. Deposits of molybdenite were known but very little success has been achieved in their development. Molybdenite was found to be in short supply and several properties were opened.

Magnesium, one of the lightest of metals, in great demand for the construction of aeroplanes and aeroplane engine parts, and in its powdered form for flares and smoke bombs, was not produced in Canada at the outbreak of the war. Research work done in the laboratories of the National Research Council resulted in the development of a process for the extraction of magnesium from dolomite rock. Suitable rock was found near Renfrew, Ontario, and a plant was built using this process which assisted greatly in relieving the shortage.

Some low-grade deposits of chromite were known but most of the supplies for this country came from Africa, Turkey and other places across the seas. Plans were made to develop chromite properties in Quebec. These are now in production. Cobalt metal plays an important part in the manufacture of certain alloys used in the manufacture of munitions. Canada's supply of this ore was running low and arrangements were made to bring material containing cobalt from African sources. The Canadian plant formerly treating Ontario cobalt ores was transformed to treat this imported material and the Canadian ores were stock-piled for use in an emergency.

But perhaps the greatest mining development of the year was the work done at Steep Rock iron ore deposit near Atikoken in northwestern Ontario. Here the flow of the Seine River has been diverted by an elaborate engineering project in order to expose for mining a very large deposit of high-grade hematite. Commercial shipments of ore are expected to commence in 1944.

No. 90 -- Wed. Dec. 29, 1943 -- Importance of Asbestos and other Minerals

Asbestos is by far the most important non-metallic mineral produced in Canada, but for reasons of security no production figures are being made public. However, several other industrial minerals were, as the result of the war, in short supply. Madagascar and India furnished large quantities of mica to consumers on this continent who were in danger of being cut off, but the discovery of a large deposit of muscovite mica near Mattawa, Ontario, eased the situation. A mica trimming plant has been established to prepare this mica for market.

The brucite mine near Gracefield, Quebec, opened up in 1941, was in full operation during the past year. Though brucite is a source of magnesium metal, its main use at present is in the manufacture of refractory bricks for lining smelting furnaces.

Fluorspar deposits near Madoc, Ontario, supplied part of Canada's requirements of this mineral. The Black Donald Graphite Mine, near Calabogie, improved its position owing to the discovery of new ore reserves and is now an important producer. Baryites, used in mud form for oil well drilling operations, was exported from Nova Scotia in greater quantities than in 1942. Salt production was the highest on record; a considerable quantity is used for the manufacture of chemicals.

Though peat moss may not be properly classified as a regular non-metallic mineral, it is included in Canada's mineral industry and its production has rapidly increased during the past few years. Output in 1943 was valued at $1,352,000.

Gypsum production was valued at $1,176,000. Other non-metallics in the list included magnesitic-dolomite, sulphur, diatomite, feldspar, nepheline-syenite, iron oxides, sodium sulphate, mineral waters, phosphate, quartz, silica brick, sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate, talc and soapstone.

No. 91 -- Thurs. Dec. 30, 1943 -- Fuels in Canada

The situation in Canada with regard to fuels is one that causes concern. Manpower shortage and the great increase in the demand for coal for industrial and domestic use brought about a critical shortage. Steps were taken to increase the labour supply and during the last half of 1943 the monthly output showed an upward trend. Production in 1943 at 17,878,000 tons was 5.3 per cent less than in 1942. Nova Scotia mines were down 15 per cent from last year. New Brunswick's output was 14 per cent higher. Saskatchewan produced 37 per cent more, Alberta two per cent less, and British Columbia eight per cent less.

Crude petroleum production at 9,958,000 barrels, exclusive of that produced in the Northwest Territories, showed a decrease of three per cent. Alberta produces 99 per cent of the total Dominion output, the remainder coming from wells in Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. Expansion in the latter area at Fort Norman was actively carried on during 1943 and a pipe line from Fort Norman to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory was under construction to transport the oil.

Natural gas production was estimated at 43,237,500 thousand cubic feet, or five per cent less than in 1942. Alberta produced 80 per cent of the total for Canada, with New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories accounting for the balance.

Fuels as a group were produced to the value of $90,000,000 in 1943, being a

reduction of approximately $2,000,000 from the 1942 valuation. Coal production was valued at $62,000,000, natural gas $12,000,000, crude petroleum $16,000,000 and peat for fuel $4,500. Quebec and Ontario accounted for all the peat produced during the year.

No. 92 -- Fri. Dec. 31, 1943 -- Canada's Shipbuilding

The administration of Canada's cargo ship construction program and naval shipbuilding activities have been merged under the new Shipbuilding Branch of the Canadian Government.

Formerly, the construction of all vessels in Canada, exclusive of cargo ships, was administered by the Naval Shipbuilding Branch, while the freighter program was managed by Wartime Merchant Shipping Limited, Montreal. In future, this Crown company, which has been renamed Wartime Shipbuilding Limited, will supervise the production both of combat vessels and merchantmen.

It is further announced that the Toronto Shipbuilding Company Limited, a Crown company operating and administering a shipyard at Toronto, will be wound up and will surrender its charter in the immediate future. The active management of the yard will remain with the shipbuilding division of the Redfern Construction Company under the direction of Wartime Shipbuilding Limited. The yard is engaged in the large scale construction of Algerine minesweepers.

Although shipbuilding contracts have been somewhat reduced, there are still 115 steel escort vessels, 60 wooden combat vessels, and 142 cargo ships on order. These involve an expenditure of several hundred million dollars. In addition, several more special utility ships will be built, including six 3,600 ton tankers, and more than 2,500 small craft.

Ship deliveries at the end of December, 1943, totalled more than 350 fighting ships, and 232 cargo vessels. Some 50,000 employees are engaged on the naval shipbuilding program including component production, while more than 30,000 are employed directly in the nine cargo shipbuilding yards.
