

MILK LOSS SAID EXAGGERATED

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for India in Ottawa, recent press reports that up to 10 per cent of the bags of Canadian milk powder sent to Bihar, India, were received in a damaged condition, are highly exaggerated.

Of the 410,662 bags received from Canada up to May 1, 11,368, or 2.8 per cent, were found to be damaged on arrival. This loss from bags torn in transit the High Commissioner's Office asserts, is not considered as unusual, owing to the long haulage, involving frequent handling, and the various kinds of transport used. Experience has shown that damage amounting to 2 to 3 per cent occurs in transit to India from other countries as well as Canada.

SETTLEMENT OF CZECH CLAIMS

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that the Canadian and Czechoslovak Governments had agreed to negotiate a lump-sum settlement of claims of Canadian citizens arising out of the nationalization of property by the Czechoslovak Government. Canadians with nationalization claims outstanding against Czechoslovakia have been asked to submit details to the Department of External Affairs before September 1, so that they may be considered for the forthcoming claims negotiations.

VIMY GUARDIANS VISIT CANADA

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Alice Piroson, known to thousands of Canadian servicemen as the "Vimy Pirosons", visited Canada recently at the invitation of the Canadian Government.

The Belgian couple, who live in Ste-Catherineles-Arras, near the Vimy Ridge Memorial in France, have, for many years, been the unofficial hosts to Canadian veterans returning to the scene of the famous battle of the First World War.

The Pirosons have been closely identified with the Memorial since 1924, when Mr. Piroson worked on its construction. When they had to move away from Arras in 1940, because of enemy occupation, Mr. Piroson insisted on protecting the base and statuary of the monument with sand-bags to save it from damage. Weeks later, hearing that the Ridge had been badly damaged, the Pirosons returned to try to save the Memorial; they found, fortunately, that the damage reports had been exaggerated.

For the rest of the war, as members of the French resistance, they met many Canadians and kept as close a watch as possible on the Ridge.

In March 1947, Mr. Piroson was appointed Memorial Supervisor, a position he held until he retired in 1965. At the time of Mr. Piroson's retirement, the couple were invited by the Prime Minister to come to Canada during the centennial year. In his invitation the Prime Minister said:

"Your close personal association with so many Canadian service personnel during both world wars, your great kindness to so many of them and your hospitality and help to Canadians who have returned to Vimy Ridge are warmly appreciated by the Canadian Government and by the Canadian people. We look forward to reciprocating in some small way your years of kindness and thoughtfulness. I can assure you of a warm welcome."

SAFETY FILM WINS U.S. HONOURS

Top honours were recently awarded by the National Safety Council of the United States to the film *Growing Up Safely*, sponsored by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Canadian entry was judged the most outstanding in the "home safety" category.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, expressed his pleasure that one of the films of his Department had achieved such distinction in the highly competitive international field.

Growing Up Safely is a 26-minute film in colour produced last year by the National Film Board and Crawley Films for the Child and Maternal Health Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. It approaches its subject — the safety of children from infancy to the "pre-teen" years — in a positive way, emphasizing accident prevention rather than creating fear of specific dangers by the dramatization of accidents.

PIT DWELLINGS RESTORED

The Soowahlie Indian Band of Vedder Crossing, in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia, is restoring, as a centennial project, one of several ancient pit dwellings found on their reserve.

These habitations were used when very cold winters prevented the occupancy of the huge cedar longhouse. There is some speculation as to their continuing in use as late as the 1860s. The pit dwelling consisted of a hole in the ground about 15 feet in diameter and 3 to 4 feet deep, with a framework of cedar poles over the top, for insulation purposes, covered with sod and dirt.

The completed structure looked like a giant mole-hill. An opening at the top served as an entrance and chimney.

There is some indication that the pit dwellings may have been connected by a series of tunnels.

The Soowahlies actually started work on the centennial project in November 1965. The fully restored dwelling will be used as a display booth for Indian handicrafts.

The estimated cost of the project is \$2,500, the money coming from federal and provincial centennial grants and the Soowahlie Band fund.