
A cage without bars

A farm near London, Ontario is the home for one of the largest collections of rare birds in North America.

Jack Griffin, a retired farmer, has turned his 400-acre (160-hectare) farm into a habitat for thousands of birds, to which he devotes nearly all of his time.

"The wilder the environment, the more success you have with birds," he claimed. More than 23 species of bird in his collection are endangered species.

Mr. Griffin, who is a member of the Eastern Game Bird Breeders Association, has poultry, water fowl, turtle-doves and 42 species of pheasants, whose oriental origin dates back several hundred years. Some of these birds were discovered in the Orient by the British.

One of his rarest birds is the mountain dove, also called the witch dove. It gets its name from its cry. "When the Spanish first came to Barbados, they heard this terrifying sound coming from the mountain," Mr. Griffin explained. "When they asked the natives about it, they were told that these strange sounds were uttered by witches."

Mr. Griffin spends almost the entire morning feeding his birds. He uses nearly two tons of feed a month, in addition to corn which he grows himself.

He has to have a federal permit to keep migratory birds. Among his birds, there are 20 varieties of Canada geese, including the largest white geese which nest in the Arctic. He also has several red-breasted Siberian geese.

Refugee program costs

The Federal Government will have spent about \$122 million by the end of the year to settle 60,000 Indochinese refugees in Canada, the Immigration Department says.

The \$122 million covers the cost of resettlement, language training, transportation and the operation of staging centres in Montreal and Edmonton, where the refugees are first received and processed.

More than 38,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have arrived in Canada since last year under government and private sponsorships.

Immigration officials have said they expect almost all of the 60,000 refugees to be in Canada by the end of October.

Rabies vaccine tested

Canada's largest commercial laboratory believes it has come up with a superior rabies vaccine which will reduce by more than half the number of injections needed for immunization or treatment, reports Margaret Munro in the *Ottawa Citizen*, June 3.

Single-cell virus factories at Connaught Labs in Toronto can now produce such a potent vaccine that six — instead of 14 to 21 — rabies shots appear capable of preventing the disease, which threatens 1,000 Canadians each year.

Connaught has started human trials on the new "diploid" vaccine and it could be licensed for commercial use as early as next summer, firm spokesman Dr. E.W. Pearson said.

The firm tested the vaccine on 350 human volunteers last winter, and Dr. Pearson said the results are encouraging.

He said the diploid vaccine is much purer than current rabies vaccine, which is produced in rabbits and contains impurities which provoke painful cramps that can lead to paralysis in rare cases.

The process involves infecting lung or kidney cells growing in the test tube with rabies viruses.

After the parasitic viruses are finished with the cells, which Dr. Pearson said "act like clean little factories", the cells and viruses are separated.

The viruses are killed, and once injected into the body trigger production of antibodies which fight off live rabies viruses.

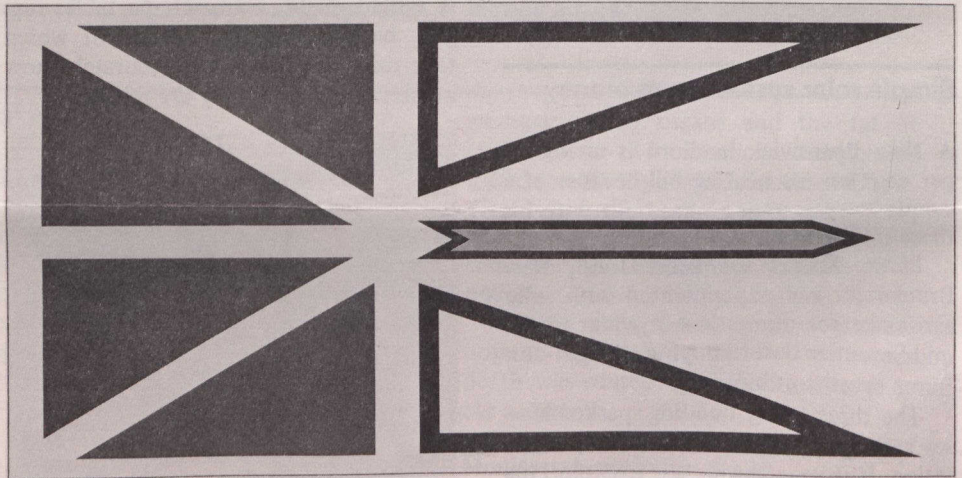
Effective as boosters

The tests showed the vaccine is effective as a booster in those already inoculated and is a method of preventing the disease in animal handlers never bitten by a rabid animal.

The second stage of tests to begin this summer will put the vaccine to the all-important test of its ability to fend off infection in victims bitten by rabid animals.

Hundreds more human guinea pigs will be given six injections for those tests, Dr. Pearson said, adding that antibody levels in their blood will determine the vaccine's effectiveness. They will not have to be bitten to be tested.

Newfoundland's new flag raised for first time



Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford and Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Winter introduced the province's new standard at a recent flag-raising ceremony in St. John's. In the flag, the primary colours of red, gold and blue are placed against a background of white to allow the design to stand out clearly. White is representative of snow and ice; blue represents the sea; red represents human efforts and gold represents Newfoundlanders confidence in themselves. The blue section (left) most reminiscent of the Union Jack represents Newfoundland's Commonwealth heritage. The red and gold section (right), larger than the other, represents the province's future. The two triangles outlined in red (upper and lower right) portray the mainland and island parts of the province reaching forward together. A golden arrow (right centre) points the way to what the province believes to be a bright future.