

Staff
meets
today
at 5



Articles well-documented, informative

New journal pushes free Canada

By JOHN HUOT

Educational Testing Services (Canada) Ltd. admissions exam to York and other Americanian universities:

Identify, and briefly describe the significance of the following persons and/or events:

1. (a) Eldridge Cleaver (b) Pierre Vallieres
2. (a) U.S. treatment of Vietnamese civilians (b) Suffield
3. (a) California grape strike (b) Great Slave Railway

If you could identify and say something about part (a) of each question, you will be admitted to the Americanian university of your choice to further your knowledge of Americanada.

If you could identify any of the part (b) questions, you will be granted your degree immediately and sent to work for the Americanian editions of Time or Reader's Digest.

If you could identify part (b) in all three questions, you will be sent immediately to specialize in Americanian studies from the proper imperial perspective at one of the 'prestigious' Americanian

centers at Harvard, Johns Hopkins or Duke.

This little fantasy-reality of our colonial mentality, expressed in the commonplace that we know more and stir up more concern about what's happening in the mother country to the south than in Canada, may get ruffled a bit by a strong north wind of Canadian reality from Montreal.

The Last Post, a new magazine of well-documented and informative articles on Canada, wants to sound the taps and chart the progress of the decline and fall of the U.S. empire in Canada and around the world. If the first issue is a measure of the Last Post's promise, we will have an important source for understanding Canadian problems and Canada's specific role as the loyal satellite of U.S. imperial interests.

Let there be no mistake about it. The colonization of our economy and of our political system (wasn't it Pierre himself who said Canadians should be happy to be 10 per cent to 15 per cent independent of U.S. domination in domestic and foreign policy?) has given us a colonial identity.

Whether we follow the fantasies

of Time magazine or the solid reporting and discussion in U.S. periodicals like Leviathan or Ramparts, in both cases we run the risk of distorting or of simply ignoring what's happening in Canada.

While Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice and the details of his enforced exile from the United States are familiar to most politically-conscious Canadians, how many of us have heard of Pierre Vallieres' Negres Blancs d'Amerique, of his three year preventive detention in Montreal jails without bail or conviction, and of his current trial and self-defense, surely the most important political trial in Quebec since the upsurge of the independence movement there?

Why has Vallieres' book, by any standards one of the most important personal and political statements in recent years, been recognized as such only outside Canada—in a German translation and soon in an English translation by a U.S. publisher?

While Canadians are outraged, quite correctly, about reports of U.S. atrocities and use of chemical-biological warfare in Vietnam, how many of us know that many of the chemical-biological were developed and tested at the Canadian Defence Research Establishment in Suffield, Alberta?

While Canadians support, quite justifiably, the struggle of immigrant California grape pickers against exploitation, how many of us are aware of the exploitation of immigrant workers in Toronto and the far North?

These examples of our colonial mentality and its destructive effects on our understanding and activity in Canada were chosen from among the many possible ones because the current issue of Last Post carries well-documented and informative articles on these subjects.

The article on the Quebec situation unravels the various strands of the development of the independence movement and working class movement in the 1960s and connects them to their origins during the Duplessis regime. The broadening and converging of these two movements during the past year, and the attempts of the federal and provincial governments to stop them—including the Vallieres trial—are analyzed clearly. This article now ranks as the best available article in English on Quebec.

The article on chemical and biological warfare research in Canada is important from three aspects:

—It documents Canada's pioneering role in this field, and the

continuing emphasis on this research.

—It shows how work in Canada is part of sharing arrangements for research, development and testing with NATO countries, and in particular the United States, which is presently using gases and defoliants developed by this sharing agreement in Vietnam.

—It, by implication, indicates that all the sound and fury about a new foreign and defence policy for Canada has not altered one iota Canada's loyal satellite role in the U.S. empire.

The story of the Great Slave Railway, built through 378 miles of muskeg, bush and farm land in the early 1960's from northern Alberta to the edge of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories, documents the "welfare for the rich, rugged individualism for the poor" pattern of capitalist development in Canada.

The railway line, whose main purpose was to bring out privately-owned lead zinc deposits in the far North, was built at a cost of \$86-million of the Canadian people's tax money.

The federal government-owned CNR, the general contractor for the job, filled its heavy labor needs through Ralph Welch Co. of Vancouver. Ralph and the CNR have had a thing going for more than 30 years in supplying cheap, disciplined and non-unionized workers for railway construction.

Ralph Welch, who used to do his own recruiting in western Canada's Metis and 'Tramp' ghettos, now gets his cheap labour through the auspices of the federal department of manpower and immigration.

They've found that Portuguese immigrants, Metis and 'tramps' are the most willing to work 16 hours a day without breaks, seven days a week—clearing perhaps \$600 a month for 500 hours' work. The way Ralph keeps his workers in line is described in detail by the author, who spent a summer as part of a 30-man Portuguese work gang.

Great Slave Railway. Indeed. The quality of research and writing in these articles and in the shorter news briefs is excellent.

If the Last Post can overcome the dual fate reserved for most Canadian and critical magazines—drowning in the sea of U.S. consumer magazines that dominate the Canadian mind and market—it could help us understand not only what's happening in Canada, but also help us understand that what's happening in Canada and Quebec is happening all over the world as people get themselves together on the wager that they can develop themselves freely and independently of U.S. economic, political and cultural domination.



Good old
golden
rule days

Back when Grandma was in school this old world was quite a bit younger. So Grannie had fewer history dates to remember and fewer authors, poets, playwrights and artists to study. Fewer chemical elements and less advanced math. All in all, she had it pretty easy.

But there's one thing she didn't have to make life in general more pleasant: Tampax tampons. So those difficult days each month were really uncomfortable.

She didn't know that internally worn Tampax tampons would come along and keep her free of discomfort and irritation. Never let odor form. She had no idea that this modern development would permit her to swim any time, bathe any time. In fact, grandma just didn't know what she was missing. But you do. So now that it's "back-to-school time," shouldn't it be "try Tampax tampons time," too?



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