

possible to believe that a pirate or a band of pirates had the time, patience, manpower, authority and engineering skill to build the tunnels and vaults.

The solving of the mystery may be the only

immediate gain. Triton has already spent half a million and the vault in question is clearly not the main one. No one knows what is inside these trunks.

Harry Bruce, one of Canada's most respected journalists, has written for most of Canada's major publications and has contributed to the glory of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He now lives a life of measured ease in Nova Scotia. Since this article by Mr. Bruce appeared in October, 1972, the CN Tower, which will soon be broadcasting CBC's programs, has risen in Toronto and it will be, as promised, the tallest structure unsupported by guy wires in the world. In another significant uprising, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission demanded a 50 per cent reduction in the amount of advertising carried by CBC and has set a 1978 deadline. Parliament will consider the demand and could modify or overrule it. It would seem, however, that the wish implied by Dr. George F. Davidson in paragraph four may be approaching fulfillment.

Mother CBC

THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, Canada's most beloved and reviled cultural institution, turned forty this year (1972), with a string of announcements of things it is about to do. Among others, it will occupy on the Toronto waterfront the tallest structure unsupported by guy wires in the world.

"Mother CBC," as both friends and enemies call her, does go relentlessly on.

It is one of those peculiarly Canadian devices which marry public and private enterprise. It is a Crown corporation. It is publicly owned but it does accept advertising revenue from private industry.

In 1970-71 ad revenue from the CBC television totalled about \$42.9 million and from its radio operations, \$2.2 million, together about one-fifth of the Corporation's expenses, and the proportion of its money that the CBC raises itself through ad revenues has declined steadily during the past fifteen years. Still, Dr. George F. Davidson, the former president of the CBC, has said, "We are excessively dependent on commercial advertising now. It is showing signs of affecting the quality and nature of our programming in prime time."

THE BULK OF CANADIANS do not think their institutions socialistic, but their choice—in transportation, communications and culture—has often been half-socialism or nothing. The people, in contrast to the miles, have been few and their sense of national destiny slight and fragmented. The Federal Government has often been the only source with both the money and ocean-to-ocean vision to build cohesive national organizations.

Air Canada, Canadian National Railways, the National Film Board, the Canada Council, a raft of grants, subsidies, and pot sweeteners for assorted expressions of cultural yearning are all Federal Government efforts to hold Canada together despite the logic of geography, climate, economics and the power of the people next door.

The CBC is the most pervasive of these. The economic odds against its becoming so were massive. Canada is forty times bigger than Great Britain but there are almost as many television sets in London as there are in our whole country. Canada is bigger than the entire USA, including Alaska, but in New York City there are more television sets than there are from Canadian coast to Canadian coast. Still, an estimated 98.6 per cent of all Canadians are within reach of CBC radio, and 96.8 per cent are within reach of CBC television. The Corporation enjoys an almost total intrusion of the living rooms, kitchens, cars, workshops and cottages of Canada. It was begun with a mission to build a sense of Canadian community by enabling Canadians to hear about one another and from one another; its new-found emphasis on regional programming decisions and production is a return to the obligations of forty years ago.

Canadian programming suffered in the twenties because recorded music and popular U.S. shows were both cheaper than native production. Stations were mostly in the big cities, where the money was, and service to sparsely settled parts of Canada barely existed. It cost a lot to broadcast across 4,500 miles to a scattered population and, therefore, national programming was weak.