

Robert White's boot and shoe store and telegraph office at Paris, Ontario on August 10, 1876. The eight-mile telegraph line from Brantford was extended 60 miles to make use of a battery supply in Toronto.

Many of the inventor's telephone experiments were made in Boston, which led to the claim that the telephone had been invented there. On this point there was no doubt in the mind of Alexander Graham Bell. He declared Brantford to be the telephone's birthplace and he said so publicly on many occasions. In an address before the Canadian Club in Ottawa on March 27, 1909, Bell said:

It was I who invented the telephone and it was invented wherever I happened to be at the time. Of this you may be sure, the telephone was invented in Canada. It was made in the United States. The first transmission of a human voice over a telephone wire, where the speaker and the listener were miles apart, was in Canada. The first transmission by wire in which the conversation was carried on reciprocally over the same line was in the United States....

COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL CONFERENCE

A three-man delegation, headed by Dr. Gaston Isabelle, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, recently represented Canada at the Third Commonwealth Medical Conference, which opened in Mauritius on November 2 and ended on November 12. Other members of the delegation were Dr. B.D.B. Layton, Principal Medical Officer, International Health, Department of National Health and Welfare, and Dr. John Gill, Associate Director for Family Planning, Population and Health Services of the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa.

The purpose of the meeting was to extend relations and review the progress in the exchange of information between Commonwealth members in the development of their health services, especially in the case of emerging nations.

The Third Commonwealth Medical Conference was organized, in co-operation with the host country, by Commonwealth Secretary Arnold Smith of Canada. Earlier meetings of the conference were held in Edinburgh, in 1965 and in Kampala, Uganda, in 1968.

REGULARS CELEBRATE CENTENARY

Canada's regular land force observed its hundredth anniversary on October 20. On that day in 1871 the first of Canada's regular forces came into being when Militia General Order No. 24 authorized the formation of two batteries of garrison artillery to provide for the "care, protection and maintenance of forts, magazines, armaments and warlike stores recently or about to be handed over (by the British)

to the Canadian government in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec".

Under this order, "A" Battery School of Gunnery came into existence at Kingston, Ontario, with a detachment at Toronto, and "B" Battery School of Gunnery was formed at Quebec, with detachments at St. Helen's Island and Levis.

The activities of the batteries were not exclusively warlike. When in 1873 the Government decided to form the North West Mounted Police (later the Royal Canadian Mounted Police), the task of organizing it was given to Lieutenant-Colonel G.A. French, officer commanding "B" Battery. Colonel French, who also became the first commissioner, organized the NWMP along military lines, with a core of commissioned and non-commissioned officers of "A" and "B" Batteries.

Special observances were held in Canada on Armed Forces Day, last June 12, and on Dominion Day July 1, while in Europe, gala centenary celebrations were held by the First Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, a direct descendent of "A" and "B" Batteries.

DRINKING-DRIVER SAFETY STUDY

The Minister of Transport, Mr. Don Jamieson, recently announced the awarding of a contract amounting to \$45,000 to Foundation of Canada Engineering Corporation Limited to conduct a roadside research project in New Brunswick to determine the effectiveness of safety programs aimed at "impaired" drivers.

During the next few weeks the Fredericton branch of the consulting firm will work in co-operation with the Province of New Brunswick and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Members of their research team will operate at locations along highways where police are stopping traffic for a routine check-up. Drivers will be invited to participate in the survey on a purely voluntary and completely anonymous basis.

The researchers will provide those participating with a list of some 40 questions concerning such things as whether they are wearing seat belts, when and where they began their trip, their destination, what type and quantity of alcoholic beverages they have consumed prior to and during their journey, and other related matters. They will be asked to take a breathalyzer test.

The police will have no involvement in the tests and the research team members will not assume any form of police duty.

The Ministry will use the findings of the survey in assessing the most effective means of reaching the motoring public with its safety programs aimed at increasing driver awareness of the dangers of combining driving with drinking alcohol.