

CIVIL DEFENCE ROLE OF ARMY

Mr. George R. Pearkes, Minister of National Defence, emphasized recently, in reply to numerous inquiries, that the army, in carrying out its duties in survival operations in the event of nuclear attack on Canada would need the co-operation of many thousands of trained civil defence workers.

"Since the announcement earlier this year of the assignment to the army of various duties in the field of civil defence", Mr. Pearkes said, "many people seem to have drawn the conclusion that trained volunteer civil defence workers and the help of experienced local fire, police and other services would no longer be required. This is not so. Careful study of what would be needed in the event of a nuclear attack has shown clearly that the armed services could not possibly handle alone the tasks which will have to be undertaken helping to ensure national survival. The re-entry into damaged areas, the monitoring of radiation hazards, decontamination, the rescue of the injured, furnishing of first aid, and the other tasks assigned to the army will all require large numbers of trained civilians working with regular and reserve members of the armed services, or in separate groups co-operating under the general direction of the army in the damaged and hazardous areas.

"In addition to those working with the army on re-entry tasks, many others will be required to assist provincial and municipal authorities to carry out tasks assigned to them in areas affected though not requiring re-entry operations undertaken by the army.

"The most practical means of recruiting and training civilians for these important duties in time of war is through the provincial and local organizations for civil defence. For this reason, the Dominion Government is giving its full support, financial and technical, to these provincial and local organizations. This effort cannot succeed, however, without local initiative and a willingness on the part of many individual Canadians to devote some time and effort in peace to preparations to enable them to do vital work if war should occur...."

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EDUCATIONIST LAUDS TV TEACHING

Television might be the answer to the problem of teaching languages in elementary schools, says Dr. Robert Gauthier, Director of French Studies for the Ontario Department of Education. He came to this conclusion after watching the new "Tan-Gau" system of teaching French, as it is used on the CBC-TV programme "Chez Hélène."

Although the CBC designed the programme for pre-school children, at least seven public schools -- two in Oakville, one in Espanola, Ontario, one in Nova Scotia and three in Montreal -- have already installed television

sets expressly to show "Chez Hélène" in the classroom.

Co-originator of the "Tan-Gau" system (his name provides the Gau in "Tan-Gau"), Dr. Gauthier expressed delight at the use of the system on television.

"Television could be the answer to the shortage of French teachers, and to the many school boards who have not been able to offer French lessons because they haven't sufficient fully-qualified French teachers," Dr. Gauthier said.

In "Chez Hélène", Montreal actress Hélène Baillargeon converses in French with two children and a puppet in the studio. Her role as "teacher" reduces the need for a fluent French instructor in the classroom.

"The classroom teacher is not really replaced," explained Dr. Gauthier, "but she need not be as fluent in French as the teacher on television. She would require to know only enough French to be able to answer any questions put to her by her pupils."

Dr. Gauthier said he thought the Tan-Gau system could be used to teach English to French-Canadian children, and again television could be helpful in solving the shortage of teachers.

"In the Tan-Gau approach we are following the same system as learning the mother tongue," he said.

The system does not require a great deal of concentration, just plenty of exposure. For this reason, the programme is presented for 15 minutes each day, Monday to Friday.

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PRIZEWINNING PLAY

A satirical comedy with a Quebec and Toronto setting, "To the Canvas Barricade," by Donald Jack, of Oakville, Ontario, has been judged the winner in a play-writing competition sponsored by the Stratford Festival Foundation and the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

The contest, open to all Canadians living at home or abroad, attracted 185 scripts, all submitted under pseudonyms so that the judges would have no idea of the identity of the authors. Out of the total, 10 were chosen for final consideration.

Second prize of \$1,000 was awarded to "Walk Alone Together," by Patricia Joudry, now living in London, England.

The judges were Peter Ustinov, British actor, director and playwright; William Inge, U.S. playwright; Robert Whitehead, Canadian-born Broadway producer; Michael Langham, artistic director and general manager of the Stratford Festival; and Herbert Whittaker, drama critic of the *Globe and Mail*.

By the rules of the contest, Mr. Jack's play is to be given a production by the Stratford Festival company with royalties to the author over and above his \$2,500 prize money. Michael Langham has scheduled it for the