

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BETHUNE

Canada Opens His Birthplace to the Public

Canadians have for a long time been interested in China.

Initial contacts were made in the late 19th century, just after Canada achieved nationhood, with merchants and missionaries who returned to Canada with reports of the people they had met and places they had seen.

In 1906 the Canadian government opened a commercial office in Shanghai and a Chinese consulate was established in Ottawa with offices in Vancouver, Toronto and Winnipeg prior to 1909. In 1943 a Canadian legation was established in China.

But it was one man, Dr. Norman Bethune, who in the space of two years, gained Chinese attention in a way no Canadian ever had.

His countrymen are very proud of him and much has been written which sustains interest in this extraordinary doctor. The Department of External Affairs recently restored Bethune's Gravenhurst birthplace as a memorial to him. There, his story is told through his own words and the impressions of others:

"And one might wonder what made him that way, a wanderer, always restless, always impatient with accepted creeds and conventions, and always in search of action and adventure." So wrote a doctor, an associate of Dr. Bethune's.

Bethune was different — he told his wife Frances Campbell Penney, daughter of a prominent court accountant in Scotland, on their