

## LEACOCK COMMEMORATED

Stephen Leacock, whose humorous sketches have won world-wide recognition, was commemorated on June 8 at the Stephen Leacock Home (his summer residence), Orillia, Ontario.

Leacock is probably best remembered for his collection of humorous character pieces published in 1912 under the title *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*. Dean Drone, Judge Pepperleigh, Jefferson Thorpe, residents of a typical Ontario town, Mariposa, and the town outing on the boat, the *Mariposa Belle*, are treasured memories of many readers in Canada and abroad. Inspiration for the sketches is said to have come from Orillia, where Leacock spent his summer holidays at his home on Old Brewery Bay.

Other well-known works of Stephen Leacock are *Literary Lapses*, *Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich*, *Moonbeams from the Larger Lunacy* and *My Discovery of England*.

Although he achieved fame as a humorist, Leacock also contributed to the library of Canadian political science and history books. *Elements of Political Science* (written as a textbook for his students), and *Mackenzie, Baldwin, Lafontaine, Hincks* are among other many learned works.

Born in Swanmore, England in 1869, Stephen Leacock came as a child to a farm near Lake Simcoe, Ontario, in 1876. He was educated at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto before accepting a lecturing post in the Political Science and Economics Department at McGill University. He was the head of that Department from 1908 to 1936. He died in 1944.

In his honour in 1946, the Leacock Associates of Orillia decided to award an annual Stephen Leacock Medal for the best book of humour written by a Canadian in the year. This year's award was presented to Max Ferguson - the radio humorist widely known as Rawhide - at a banquet held on the day of the Leacock commemorative ceremony.

## CADET SUMMER EXCHANGE

About 175 Armed Forces cadets will visit foreign countries during July and August.

Canadian sea cadets will take part in an exchange on the east and west coasts, with 50 cadets from the United States Navy League. Twenty-five will visit Norfolk, Virginia, and go to sea aboard an aircraft carrier; the remaining 25 will travel to Puget Sound, near Seattle, Washington. Their U.S. counterparts will train at Canadian Forces Base Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, and Canadian Forces Base Comox, British Columbia.

Army cadets will visit the Caribbean and Britain. Sixty-five will take part in international exchanges with Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada from July 25 to August 17; the Caribbean cadets will stay at Valcartier, Quebec, Ipperwash and Borden, Ontario, and Aldershot, Nova Scotia. The Bisley cadet team will send 12 sharpshooters to Bisley (Aldershot) England from July 4 to August 8, while six cadets will take mountain training at Townyn,

Wales, from July 5 to August 4. The British cadets will visit Banff, Alberta.

Sixty-two air cadets will be traded. The countries taking part with two cadets each are: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Britain will have 27 and the United States 15. Cadets from these countries will visit various locations in Canada as guests of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Selections for international exchanges are made from senior cadets who have displayed outstanding performance in their cadet training.

## PIONEER GEOLOGIST RETIRES

Dr. Clifford H. Stockwell, known internationally as the doyen of Precambrian geologists, has retired from the Geological Survey of Canada at the age of 70. He was a pioneer in the study of the age and structure of rocks in Canada's Precambrian Shield, which consists of some of the most ancient rocks in the world (500 to 3,000 million years). By correlating the order of rock formations with their ages as determined by the radioactive isotopes they contain, Dr. Stockwell was able to determine the time and sequence of events that produced the formation.

In retirement, Dr. Stockwell will complete a tectonic map which graphically summarizes the geological history of Canada during Precambrian times. This will be presented this summer to earth scientists at the International Geological Congress in Prague.

## NEW HISTORIC PARK

Castle Hill, whose fortifications protected the town of Placentia, the first colony in Newfoundland, was opened as a national historic park on June 19. An audio-visual display emphasizing French and British influence in Newfoundland depicts the history of Castle Hill. Mr. Hédard Robichaud, Minister of Fisheries, represented Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, at the opening ceremonies at which Premier Smallwood of Newfoundland and other officials were present.

In 1662, a small group of soldiers, settlers, a priest and a governor, who had come to establish the power of France on the island, constructed fortifications to protect the harbour. At this time, England - later to seek and win control of the island - was content to protect its fishing interests off the coast. The West Country merchants, who controlled the fishery, discouraged settlement, as they thought that permanent settlers would threaten their supremacy in the industry.

When hostilities began between England and France in the 1690s, the French engineer L'Hermitte constructed Fort Royal on top of Castle Hill to provide covering fire for the forts below. At that time Placentia proved to be too strong for the English to take by siege, but it was surrendered to England, as