

**SCHOOLGIRL CANADA'S TOAST:** An unassuming 16-year-old schoolgirl was Canada's toast last week following her feat of swimming across Lake Ontario. She is Marilyn Bell of Toronto, a youngster who teaches handicapped children the art of swimming and who wants to go to college to become a physical education instructor or an occupational therapist.

No one had ever before conquered Lake Ontario, notorious for its chill and at times rough waters. It was very rough the day Marilyn completed a swim of about 40 miles from Youngstown, N.Y., to the Canadian National Exhibition grounds at Toronto. Experts had said it could not be done. Three other more famous swimmers attempted the swim but only Marilyn finished.

Since then she has appeared in official receptions and street parades and, in addition to \$10,000 prize money donated by the Canadian National Exhibition authorities, has been the recipient of all kinds of prizes tendered by commercial firms and private citizens. Career offers also are beckoning and Marilyn is wondering how she can square things at school, from which, she points out, she has been absent a week already because of events.

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**MR. CAMPNEY TO EUROPE:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Ralph O. Campney, left by RCAF aircraft on Sept. 19 to visit Canadian Army and RCAF units in the United Kingdom and Europe for the first time since becoming Minister. He will witness a phase of NATO Exercise "Battle Royal" in Germany, in which members of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade at Soest, Germany and Sabre jet squadrons of the 1st RCAF Air Division, will participate.

Mr. Campney, who will be accompanied by Mr. C.M. Drury, Deputy Minister, and Brig. Herold Cameron, Defence Secretary, will also hold discussions with officers of the Canadian Joint Staff in London and the Canadian High Commissioner there. He will also confer with Lord Alexander, United Kingdom Defence Minister, and other officials. In Paris Mr. Campney will meet with officials of the Allied Air Forces Central Europe and visit the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Before leaving the United Kingdom, he will visit 30 Air Materiel Base at Langar and No. 1 Fighter Wing at North Luffenham.

At Metz, home of the Air Division Headquarters, the Minister will witness a fly-past of Sabre jet fighters from the Division's 12 squadrons. He will visit all three squadrons at No. 2 Fighter Wing, Grostenquin, France; No. 4 Fighter Wing, Baden Soellingen, Germany, and No. 3 Fighter Wing at Zweibrücken, Germany. He plans to view the general layout of RCAF Station, Marville, France, to note construction progress. When Marville is ready for occupation it will house No. 1 Fighter Wing; now at North Luffenham.

**CROPS FORECAST:** On the basis of yields indicated at September 1, production of most of Canada's principal field crops will be substantially below that of 1953. Moreover, an unprecedented combination of losses from rust, excessive moisture, sawflies, wind and hail in the Prairie Provinces has sharply reduced the current outlook for both yield and quality from the August 1 forecast for most major grain crops, particularly wheat. However, prospective yields per acre for 1954 for all crops except spring wheat and fodder corn are still above the long-time (1908-50) average.

Although indicated average yields and production of winter wheat, mixed grains and tame hay are somewhat above the levels forecast on the basis of August 1 conditions, those of spring wheat, oats for grain, barley, fall rye, spring rye, and potatoes vary from much lower to relatively unchanged.

With the exception of southern areas, very little harvesting had been accomplished in the Prairie Provinces by September 1. Frequent rains during the past six weeks have seriously delayed ripening of grains and have hampered harvesting operations even in areas where crops matured at an earlier date.

#### RUST EPIDEMIC

It will not be possible to determine until completion of harvest the exact extent of damage resulting from what is considered to be perhaps the worst rust epidemic in Canada's history.

While indicated yields per acre of 16 of the 18 crops are above the long-time averages, yields per acre of only soybeans and tame hay are above those of 1953. Indicated production for six crops -- mixed grains, dry beans, flaxseed, soybeans, tame hay and sugar beets -- exceeds that of last year but anticipated outturns of all other crops fall below those of 1953.

Canada's wheat crop, now forecast at 377,900,000 bushels is far below both the 1953 crop of 614,000,000 bushels and the ten-year (1944-53) average of 456,500,000. The sharp reduction of 135,100,000 bushels (26%) from the August 1 forecast is largely attributable to the rust epidemic which developed in alarming proportions, particularly in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as the season progressed. However, excessive moisture, sawflies, wind and hail also have taken considerable toll of crops since August 1. As much of the crop is still immature and remains to be harvested, optimum weather conditions must prevail for the next few weeks if even the current reduced forecast is to be fully realized.

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Oil wells across Canada produced a record 42,233,000 barrels of crude petroleum in the first 6 months this year, 26.5% more than 1953's first-half output of 33,391,000 barrels.