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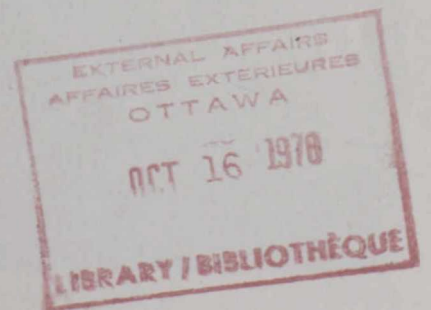
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Canada Today

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Coal makes a comeback
Epsom salute to Canada
Sculpture comes of age
Talking with Farley Mowat



Cover: Coal works by McIntyre Mines on the Smokey River, Grand Cache, Alberta.

Canada Today



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Coal makes a comeback

By Marsha Norford

Coal, as an antiquated energy source, has suddenly had a new lease on life. As Canada searches for alternatives to oil and gas in its quest for energy self-sufficiency, its abundant reserves of coal are being re-examined. The biggest reason for the renewed interest in coal comes from its need as an energy source to generate electricity.

The resurgence in coal demand is of recent date. Escalating market requirements for coal have placed considerable strain on an industry that is only now recovering from several decades of depression.

Since the beginning of its recovery in the late 1960's, the industry has faced the necessity of building itself from a depressing image of dismal mining towns, pit closures and an apparent future of inexorable decline.

Coal production has continued to grow since the industry's initial recovery. It has soared to more than 31 m. tons a year from as low as 10 m. tons in 1969. The value of coal output in 1977 was C\$671 m. This represents an increase in value of 1,077% since 1967. By 1990 annual levels of 60 m. to 70 m. tons are forecast. The reasons for coal's comeback are shifting, however, from foreign demand for metallurgical coal to domestic demand for thermal coal.

The differences between metallurgical (coking coal) and thermal coal is apparent in their prices. Metallurgical coal is greatly superior in quality and heating value and is the preferred coal for the production of steel. Thermal coal is cheaper to produce as well as being more suitable for "soft" coal use. Soft coal is used primarily as a cheaper heating fuel for power generation. It is preferred for the conversion of heat to electricity. As a result, interest in soft coal deposits for thermal use has created an increase in their production and consumption.

Escalating prices for oil and gas are proving to be too costly for electric utilities which require energy in order to generate electricity. As a result, many electrical producers are finding thermal coal a less expensive fuel for thermal plants.

The power companies in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have all turned to coal as a viable alternative to oil and gas.

Exports of the higher priced metallurgical coal to steel mills, particularly in Japan, have been a big incentive for new mines in Western Canada. Since 1970, the price of

metallurgical coal has risen from C\$12 a ton to about C\$55 a ton for recent shipments.

However, due to a world-wide slump in the steel industry, the demand for metallurgical coal has decreased. Because of the dependency of small Western Alberta towns upon the renewal of their coal contracts with nations such as Japan, the future of these towns is somewhat precarious. Although these contracts have brought renewed prosperity to many formerly depressed areas such as Coleman and Grande Cache, Alberta, their continued existence is tied to foreign demands for Canadian metallurgical coal. If Japan's steel industry continues its slump, the inevitable result will be a lack of contracts and a loss of prosperity for these areas.

Although domestic producers could realistically provide all of Canada's coal needs, coal exports still have not caught up with coal imports.

During 1976, Canada's total coal consumption was 28.2 m. tons. Of this amount, 14.6 m. tons were imports and 11.7 m. tons were exports. Legislative and financial incentives will be necessary in order for Canada to meet her domestic coal requirements. At present, most of Canada's coal imports go to feed Ontario's thermal power plants and steel mills.

Canada's coal reserves are sufficient to serve Canada's domestic needs as well as those of other countries for centuries to come. The Federal Government has estimated Canada's reserves of recoverable coking and thermal coal at 5.9 billion tons (717 m. tons coking and 5.2 bn. tons thermal). However, world coal resources are estimated at 11,000 bn. tons of which an estimated 700 bn. tons are considered economically recoverable.

Estimated resources

Projected economically recoverable reserves represent more than five times as much energy as economically recoverable oil reserves. Canada's coal resources are estimated at as much as 250 bn. tons.

Canada's production of coal on a world-wide scale is quite small. Its production of approximately 31 m. tons compares with a world-wide production of about 3.3 bn. tons.

There are about 30 producers of coal in Canada. Annual production varies widely throughout the country. The Western provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and

British Columbia lead in annual tonnage with production of approximately 28.6 m. tons with an estimated value of C\$583 m. The Maritime provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick account mainly for the remaining coal production in the country with an annual production of approximately 2 m. tons valued at an estimated C\$87 m. In addition, there is also a minor amount of coal produced in the Yukon Territories.

Coal operations vary from small independent producers with as few as two employees to large companies with multiple mining operations, company sponsored towns, preparation plants and surface shops.

Investor-owned companies and private companies tend to dominate the industry in the coal-producing areas of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan while Crown-owned (government) corporations are the rule in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The industry has enjoyed relatively few days of lost production due to strikes. On the average, only 1,000 man days per year during the last five years have been lost due to strikes. Since its inception, coal mining in Canada has never suffered from a high rate of work stoppage and loss of production due to strikes.

Mining methods

Coal mining methods are dependent upon the type of coal to be mined and the conditions under which it occurs. Soft or hard coal mining determines to some extent the end use of the product and its market value.

The lignites (soft coal) and sub-bituminous coals are used for thermal power generation and have a market value of less than C\$5 per short ton (2,000 pounds) for coal at the mine site. However, some of the low to medium volatile bituminous coals used for coke production have a market value of more than C\$50 per short ton for clean coal at the mine site.

The difference in price has a direct bearing on allowable mining expenditures and places a limit on the mining methods that may be used.

There are two methods of mining coal. These methods are by mining at the surface (strip mining) or by underground means. During 1976 surface extraction methods accounted for 86 per cent of the saleable coal. Thermal coal accounted for 53 per cent of the tonnage produced and represented only 15 per cent of the total value.

Strip (surface) mining is a viable method of mining 'soft' coal lying near the surface of the mining area. In the past, however, the unseemly scars left on the landscape proved to be unacceptable to the environmentalists. In recent years, land reclamation projects have achieved a great deal of success in their attempts to restore the damaged surfaces.



Surface mining at Hinton, Alberta: a mine worker measures the depth of a hole before filling with explosives.

Canadian coal has been mined for over 300 years. Deposits of coal are widely distributed. There is a wide disparity as to the age, quality and geological conditions under which coal deposits appear.

There are four basic classes of coal. These range from the soft lignites through the sub-bituminous and bituminous classes to the hard anthracite class.

As a rule, the lignites and most of the sub-bituminous coals are used for steam generation by electric-utility companies. The best metallurgical or coking coals (for making iron and steel) are usually of the low and medium volatile bituminous class.

Anthracite coal is commonly used for domestic heating purposes as it burns more cleanly than most coals and has the highest heat content.

As coal comes to occupy a larger place in the country's overall energy requirements, there are other major issues that will have to

be resolved by government and business planners. Among these public concerns are transportation costs, strip mining, air pollution and financing.

The long distances between mines and power plants in Canada have traditionally discouraged the use of coal as an energy source. It is imperative that long term stability in railway rates and improved facilities for the handling of coal be achieved.

Pollution control

Public utilities are under pressure from the public to control pollution by the sulphur content of the mineral as well as to regulate pollution from coal-fired plants.

Foreign investment in the coal industry will result in the development of new jobs and it is hoped that Canadian tax laws will reflect the fact that mining is a high risk business. Incentives will be needed to encourage

Miners changing shift at number 26 colliery in Lingan Mine, Nova Scotia; they are brought to the Hoist House by elevator.



investment in the mining industry. Currently, acute differences exist between the federal and provincial governments over who is to take the largest portion of the natural resource producer's revenue.

With the opening up and expansion of jobs in the coal industry, some attempts have been made to relocate mining families from other depressed areas in the country. These transitions have largely been from the depressed areas of the Maritimes to the more prosperous areas of the West. Unfortunately, the attempts at relocation of the miners from the Cape Breton area of Nova Scotia have, by and large, met with failure. Many of the relocated families seemed unable to make the necessary adjustment successfully and by and large, have returned to their original homes.

In many instances mining had been a family occupation for many generations of Cape Bretoners. In many instances they had mined at the same mining site as a family and the unfamiliarity of their new surroundings in the West proved to be incompatible with their family heritage.

Because of the financial opportunities afforded by the Canadian coal industry, many individuals have found themselves able to achieve upward mobility both economically and socially. Positions of importance both in the industry or related to it have become available.

Recently the coal industry has also afforded opportunities to women looking for employment outside traditional areas. Unlike some of the parts of the world where women have been discouraged from working in the mines, this has not been the case in Canada. As a result, many women have been able to carve a place for themselves in the industry on a parity with the men.

As a result of the increased interest in and demand for coal for thermal use, development of coal reserves will put the mining industry in competition for capital with other energy projects in Canada. Western Canadian companies are planning capital outlays of C\$350 m. to provide new coal

supplies to Ontario Hydro, the organisation which supplies electricity to Canada's most highly industrialised province. Estimates of proposed projects in British Columbia have been estimated at C\$200 m. Speculation exists in Ontario around a proposed C\$700 m. coal-burning complex to provide lignite deposits that could feed an electric power plant.

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Complex coal loading equipment stands on reclaimed land at Roberts Bank Superport, British Columbia.



Rhodes girls play it cool at Oxford

By Jack Archer

I expected to hear a successful battle-cry for Women's Lib. But the girl from Ottawa and Somerville College, Oxford, ignored the bait as if the movement was something the world could well do without.

"We're not show dogs," she said. "We're here to do a job of work and carry it out in the best way we know how."

But to many people Jessie Sloan is a special kind of girl. So are her three Canadian colleagues — Melanie Dobson from Riverview, New Brunswick, Eileen Gillese from Edmonton, Alberta, and Jacqueline Sheppard from St. John's, Newfoundland.

And there are twenty more like them from other parts of the Commonwealth, the United States and West Germany.

Special? Not according to them. But they are Rhodes Scholars, and the first women to be awarded the scholarships since the Sex Discrimination Act was passed in 1975 — an Act which many said would bring Cecil Rhodes storming from his grave.

But times have changed since the old Empire Builder and Oxford's most famous son set up a Trust Fund to find what he called 'the best man for the world's fight'. And Rhodes himself would probably have been among the first to admit that, in this day and age, women could share in that fight equally with men.

Rough, tough and dogmatic Rhodes might have been, but bias was not among his traits and he clearly specified in his will that no applicant for scholarship should qualify or be disqualified on account of his race, colour or religious convictions.

The day the Act was passed all was serene at Rhodes House, headquarters of the Trustees. The possibility of admitting women to the all-male fraternity had been on the cards for sometime and the Discrimination Act was the green light that was needed. The Trustees changed the terms of the Rhodes Will with clear consciences.

It was a simple change. After seeking a Ministerial Order, they omitted the words 'manly' and 'manhood' and that was that. But the principle remained the same:

choosing candidates who seemed most markedly to possess qualities of character and leadership and able to measure up to the exacting intellectual demands of Oxford.

Too often there has been an illusion that Rhodes Scholars are a breed of brawny men, more skilled in sport than academics, more adept at kicking a ball than wrestling with Plato and Aristotle.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Rhodes' desire was the perfect mix — intelligence combined with the qualities of character developed by sport and a love of open-air life, plus the most human gift of all — unselfishness.

And as for those manly skills, women have been engaged in them successfully for years — genetics and medicine, commerce and law. Cecil Rhodes would be proud of them.

Eileen Gillese says: "The world may have changed in its outlook, but we haven't. We have always lived in a male-dominated society, but it has never been a deterrent to achievement."



From left to right: Melanie Dobson, Jessie Sloan and Eileen Gillese.

Eileen was the only girl among the nine candidates for the three scholarships awarded to the Prairie Provinces, but even then she did not look upon it as a battle of the sexes, only as a competition between fellow students.

There is always a certain amount of pressure on Rhodes Scholars, but more so on this first contingent of women students. Some of them feel like oddities in a fish bowl.

'We're kept on our toes'

Fortunately, it does not happen in the environment of Oxford. Says Melanie Dobson: "We might be looked upon as big fish back home, but here we are part of a crowd. Competition is keen and we are always kept on our toes. It is a great thrill to mix and learn with some of the finest brains in the world and I'm sure we all feel a sense of humility."

Some 700 Canadians have been awarded Rhodes Scholarships since the first students arrived in 1904 and many went on to leave their mark in politics, public life, commerce, law and the academic world.

Men like D. Roland Michener, who became Governor General of Canada; W. R. Jackett, Chief Justice of the Federal Court, and Jean Beetz of the Supreme Court. Cabinet Ministers and M.P.'s like Alastair Gillespie, Otto Lang, William Rowe, John Turner, Francis Fox, Robert Wells (Minister of Health for Newfoundland) and Allan Blakeney (Premier of Saskatchewan).

There are also John Evans (President, University of Toronto), George Ignatieff (Provost, Trinity College), H. I. MacDonald (President, York University), Henry Hicks (President, Dalhousie University), R. Watts (Principal, Queen's University) and John F. Leddy (President, University of Windsor).

And there is the name of the Very Rev. John Lowe from Ontario, who became Dean of Christ Church

The list is endless, but perhaps the most revered Canadian name of all in the annals of Rhodes House is that of Dr. George Parkin, the man who made Rhodes dream become a reality.

Dr. Parkin, later knighted for his work, graduated from Oxford on the same day as Rhodes and was made in a similar mould, with Church and Empire running through his blood.

He was a recognized leader of the Church of England in Canada and for seven years was Headmaster of Upper Canada College, in Toronto, which he transformed into a public school in the old Arnold tradition.

Likely Presidents

At the age of 56, Parkin threw everything to the wind when he was invited to take over as organizing secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship.

For two years he carried on non-stop, covering 140,000 miles of the world holding conferences, forming selection committees and rousing enthusiasm everywhere.

When asked by an American conference what he was looking for, he replied: "A candidate for each State most likely to become President of the United States, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Only then would the Rhodes Trustees be satisfied."

But Parkin knew what he was looking for and he aimed high.

Parkin was also responsible for enlarging the Canadian entry to Oxford. For some



Jackie Sheppard.

unknown reason Rhodes had only allowed two scholarships, one for Ontario and one for Quebec. Parkin quickly put that right.

The Trustees were delighted to create six more Canadian seats for the forgotten Provinces, but were shocked a few months later when McGill University asked for an extra scholarship. Their plea was that they had two outstanding students and that it was impossible to distinguish between them.

The Rhodes Trustees were in a quandary. Should they surrender? Or offer no scholarships at all? They had no choice and surrendered.

The decision proved a wise one, for one of the students took a First both in Classical Moderations and in Literae Humanoires, won the Ireland and 1st Craven Scholarships, the Chancellor's Latin Essay and the Passmore Edwards Scholarship, and was elected to a Fellowship at Exeter College.

The second student took a First in Literae Humanoires and a Second in Jurisprudence, and went on to win what is still regarded as a blue ribbon of an Oxford career, a Fellowship at All Souls.

Canada's first Rhodes Scholars arrived with a bang. Today, Canada's four smart girls at Oxford — Melanie Dobson (D.Phil Genetics), Jessie Sloan (B.A. Politics, Philosophy and Economics), Eileen Gillese (B.A. Law) and Jacqueline Sheppard (B.A. Political Science and Law) are determined to maintain the Rhodes tradition.

Says Jacqueline: "The fact that we are among the first girls eligible for Rhodes Scholarships should in no way destroy the dreams of the founder. We know what his aims were and we intend to carry them out."

Cecil Rhodes, visionary and Empire Builder, can rest in peace.

Epsom celebrates Canada's contribution to British racing

By Alan Harvey



Two sons of the great Canadian stallion Northern Dancer, ridden to victory in the Derby by Lester Piggott: Nijinsky (top) in 1970 and The Minstrel last year.

When Epsom racecourse decided to stage a special "Canada Day" in honour of Canada's contribution to British racing, it could hardly have hoped for a more thrilling result. For the day's feature event — a £10,000 race named after the great Canadian stallion Northern Dancer — produced a heart-stopping stretch duel, a photo finish, an objection by the runner-up and an official inquiry.

And then, after tingling suspense, the judges awarded the race to the first past the post, a bay colt named Totowah. This was an especially fitting climax to "Canada Day" since Totowah is owned by Lady Beaverbrook, who divides her time between Canada and Britain, and regards herself as a Canadian. She is the widow of Lord Beaverbrook, the "little nut-brown man" from New Brunswick who held idiosyncratic sway over the newspaper world for many years.

Lady Beaverbrook was unable to be present at Epsom, so trainer Michael Jarvis accepted the winner's trophy from Canada's E. P. Taylor, the millionaire industrialist and world's foremost owner-breeder in whose colours Northern Dancer waltzed to victory

in the premier North American classics of 1964.

Sire of such wonder horses as The Minstrel and Nijinsky II, Northern Dancer is recognised as the world's leading stallion, the "King of Sires." British breeders are clamouring for his blood, but in the nicest possible way. Last autumn, in an unprecedented move, London bloodstock dealer James Wigan imported from Canada two of Northern Dancer's sons, Dance in Time and Northern Flash, to stand at stud at Newmarket, which has been the headquarters of British racing since the days of Charles II. As proclaimed in the vivid red racing card produced for Canada Day, Northern Dancer was the first Canadian-bred to win America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, and the only one to win both the Kentucky classic and Canada's Queen's Plate. The gallant little colt was never out of the first three, winning 14 of his 18 races.

He is still a source of great pleasure to E. P. Taylor, who came to London to see the race named after his great racehorse. In addition to presenting the Northern Dancer trophy, Taylor received as a memento a splendid china bowl from Mrs. Tim Neligan, wife of

the Epsom supremo who planned the special Canada race day.

Chatting while he waited for the judges' verdict — which rejected the objection and gave the race to the 11-1 shot Totowah — Taylor said Northern Dancer, now 17 years of age, was still in good heart and sound health. He is still going strong at stud and some of his offspring are running in Britain this year. Canadian-bred juveniles expected to make their debut shortly include French-Canadian — topically named in view of the referendum on Quebec independence to be held probably within the next year.

Tim Neligan, promoter of Epsom's Canada Day, is managing director of the company which runs Epsom, Sandown and Kingston racetracks. He has been greatly impressed by Canada's advance as an international racing power. "We thought it would be fitting to hold a special day in homage to Canada's contribution to British racing," he said. "We are all very grateful to Mr. Taylor. Many of us feel Northern Dancer is the world's pre-eminent sire."

Northern Dancer's progeny are winning in France as well as in Britain and America. Five days before Canada Day at Epsom, a chestnut filly named La Dorga won the Prix de Royaumont, an important race for distaff-side three-year-olds, at Chantilly near Paris.

As a boy in short pants, Taylor showed his business acumen by breeding rabbits in a cellar at his Ottawa home. He entered the horse business in 1936 with a C\$4,000 cheque. He never looked back. In 1976 Taylor-breds earned C\$3,000,000-plus in North America alone, with Northern Dancer's produce picking up purse money of over C\$2,000,000.

Irish bloodstock dealer Jonathan Irwin told *Canada Today*, "I think that Canada's emergence into international turf prominence can be ascribed to one man — and that man is E. P. Taylor."

Another warm tribute came from the outstanding Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien, who said; "It is important to say that Mr. E. P. Taylor of Windfields Farm, as the breeder of such class horses as Nijinsky, Nearctic and The Minstrel, has himself put Canada among the very top breeding countries of the world. There is no doubt that whatever country he operated in would benefit greatly from his unquestioned brilliance as a breeder."

Sculpture at last finds a Canadian voice

By James Purdie

Canada has been aptly described as a country of unresolved solitudes, and its art has traditionally been defined as much by this fact as it has by the two main streams of history, European and American, from which it has grown.

Although the Canadian land mass is greater than that of the United States, it supports a sparsely dispersed population of little more than 23 m. It is not possible to live in a Canadian town or city without being aware of deep intuitive and psychological levels — of two predominant characteristics of the land and its people that are not to be found in combination anywhere else in the world.

One of these is the sense in every Canadian, artist or not, of the vast, undeveloped, severely beautiful emptiness that stretches northward from the fertile regions to the shores of the Polar seas. The other is the social organization, which is based on what is officially called multiculturalism — not the melting-pot system of assimilation that welded the United States into a nation.

Warrior idol, a jade sculpture by David Enn, who is represented in the current exhibition at Canada House Gallery, London.

The common solitude is the eternal silence, the shared frontier of glacial lakes, forest, tundra and ice, this is the solitude that unites. It also holds the greatest promise of producing a mature, definable, indigenous art — an art yet to be synthesized from the many streams of influence that flow through the painting and sculpture of today.

The other solitudes are defined by geography and the cultural differences it has inevitably produced. British Columbia on the Pacific coast is separated by the Rocky Mountains from the oilfields of Alberta, the wheat-fields, potash and uranium of the Prairies and the industrial complexes of Ontario and central Canada. The Atlantic Provinces, with their vast forests and fisheries, are generally more immediately concerned about storms at sea than they are about storms in Parliament 1,500 miles away.

Quebec province, which has preserved its unique cultural identity for 300 years — and, in many ways, achieved maturity in the arts earlier than the rest of the country — defines its particular and special solitude by means of language and a social organization

with separate roots that reach back to pre-revolutionary France.

Canada, then, had no art history of its own before the early years of this century (apart from those ancient arts of the Indian and Eskimo that are now being revived — encouraged and preserved in museums as an irreplaceable cultural treasure).

The country's art, throughout the nineteenth century, consisted of adaptations of styles imported from Europe — either directly or indirectly, by way of the United States, the first emergence of a national style came into focus after 1912, the year in which Group of Seven Toronto-based painters drew inspiration for an austere beautiful new style of landscape painting from an exhibition of Scandinavian art in Buffalo, New York.

Swift evolution

The evolution since that time has been swift and diverse. Today, art that competes with the best the world has to offer is being produced in every conceivable style, figurative and abstract. Canadian artists, because of their solitudes and the preservation of ethnic identity within a government system of co-operative confederation, are freer than most to draw their inspiration from any style or period in world art history.

So it is that American West Coast painting and sculpture and design philosophies from the Orient have more influence in British Columbia than the art being produced in other parts of Canada. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, the endless horizons and great vaulted skies encourage a contemplative lyricism that is unique to its regions. And so it is across the country. The world of art history is represented everywhere in microcosm.

Viewed in this light, contemporary Canadian artists recognize their potential as a significant gathering point for the art traditions of the old world and powerful new streams of art energies that have welled up through the great convergence of cultures in the United States.

It is important to know something of the Canadian solitudes, this state of suspension between world cultural streams, if the diversity of an emerging art maturity is to be properly understood and assigned a place in the international art world of the present day.

Canadian artists, unlike those of Europe, have no native Michelangelos, Constables or Henry Moores on whose shoulders they can stand. They lay claim, instead, to the heroes of both Europe and North America. Their art college is the world.

Until the present period, the flow of ideas and techniques has been generally a one-way affair, with Canadians absorbing information and inspiration abroad and returning to their solitudes to work out a

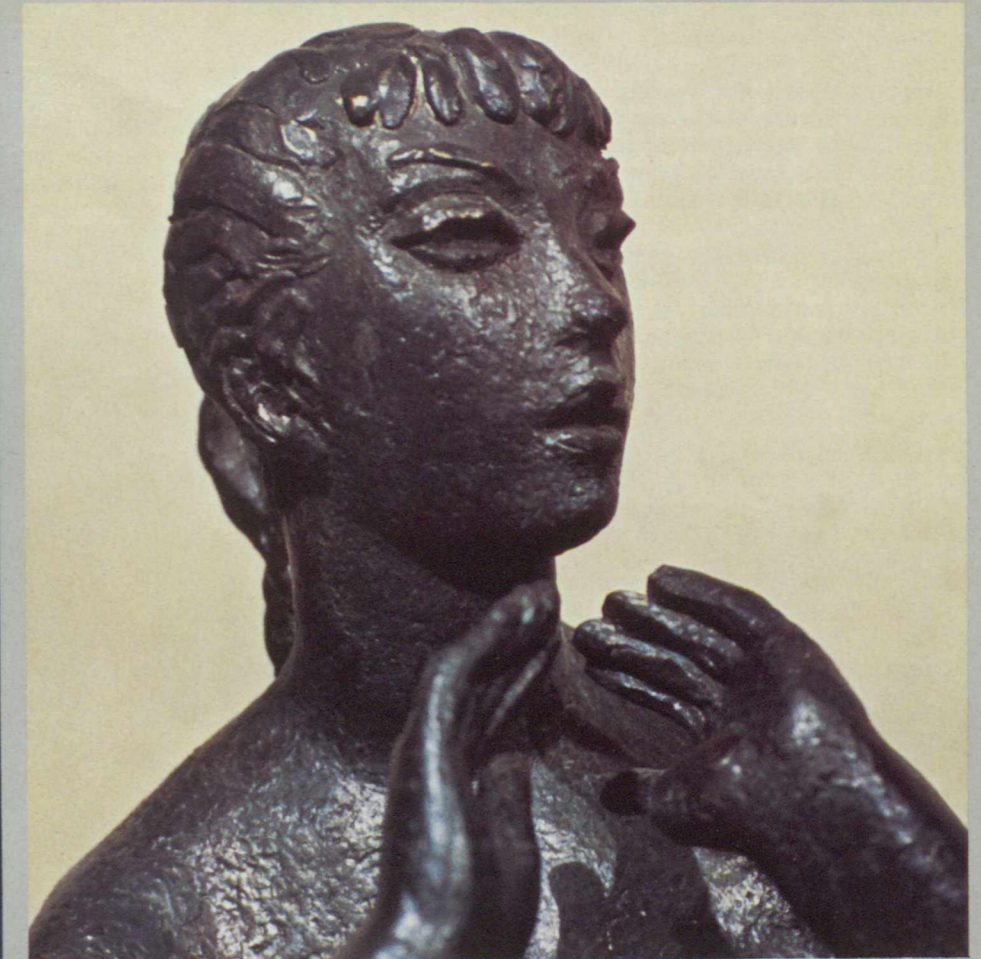
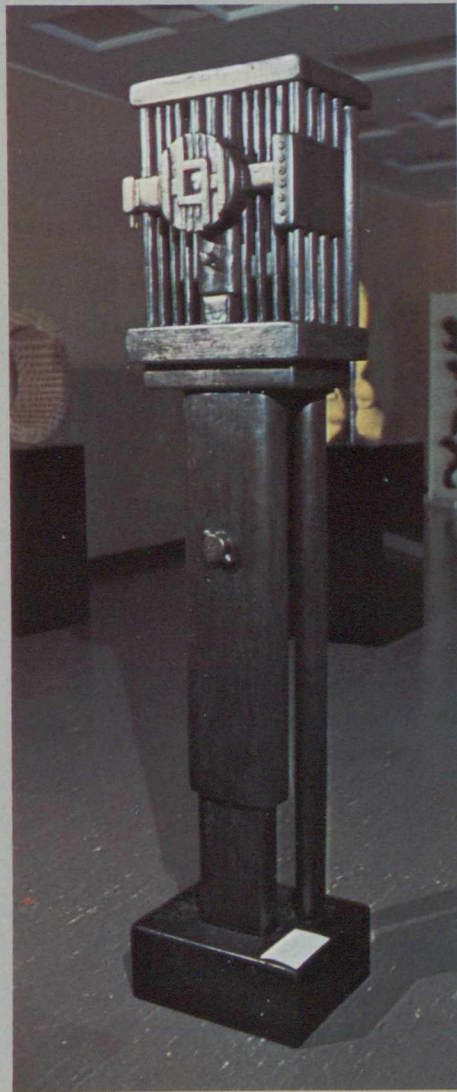
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Survey of Canadian Sculpture, an exhibition at Canada House Gallery, Trafalgar Square, is open from July 19-August 30.

Leonard Oesterle, *Upright* (right)

Fred Powell *Swiss Bank* (below)



Leo Mol *Echo* (detail, top)

Angela M. Houpt *Shail* (above)

Hans Schleich *Bronze* (left)

Continued from Page 7

synthesis between old and new. This is the dependence that is now rapidly being broken down, as can be seen in the diversity of styles and ideas in the survey exhibition of Canadian sculpture now installed at Canada House in London.

The exhibition was organized by the Sculptors Society of Canada to mark its own fiftieth anniversary and as its contribution to the tenth International Sculpture Conference held earlier this year in Toronto.

Although generalizations are always subject to exceptions, it is true that a Canadian sculptural tradition has been slower in its development than painting and print-making (if the great regional carving of the Arctic Inuit and the Northwest Coast Indians is considered separately).

This exhibition of work by more than 70 sculptors is notable for the clear signs it presents of an emerging indigenous Canadian expression composed of many influences.

New expression

The European tradition, those styles and balances with which most London art audiences are familiar, are expressed anew in the work of such artists as Kosso Eloul, Mavis Ehlert, Leonard Oesterle, Benson Zonena, Ante Sardelic and Rebecca Sisler. Figurative or abstract, the work acknowledges its roots.

But the ancient, indestructible Canadian Shield, the primordial rock formation that forms the backbone of the country, can be seen in the cast bronze work of Gord Smith. The crowded modern urban pace of cities only now reaching the fullness of their cultural potential is embodied, symbolically or directly, in the work of Ian Trowell, William McElcheran, E. J. Lightman, Louis Archambault, Pat Fulford and Phyllis Kurtz Fine.

The great carving tradition of the Northwest Coast Indians is represented by a cedar screen carved by one of Canada's great native masters, the Haida Indian, Bill Reid. Joseph Reid, an elder of the Woodland Indian tribes, retells a legend of his people in the soapstone carving titled "Seven Dancers." John Weaver uses different materials in the piece called "Steel to the West" to commemorate a later important period in Canadian history: the building of the railways from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the nineteenth century.

This exhibition, which includes many sculptors of the new generation, is not confined to members of the Sculptors Society. Non-members were invited to take part in order to present the broadest survey possible of work that meets the Society's requirements of excellence.

The show will travel from London to Paris and Brussels, finishing with a tour of the United States in late autumn.

Agriculture Soybeans potential

A one-year experimental programme has shown that there is some potential for growing soybeans on the eastern prairies, though the report of the project says that lack of moisture is a limiting factor: it urges early planting to take advantage of spring moisture in the soil.

Agriculture Canada's New Crop Development Fund provided half the financing for the work, which was carried out by King Grain, a firm based in Chatham, Ontario.

Farm trial sites were selected to represent as many climatic zones as possible, with a wide variation in soil types as well as rainfall. Some of the sites were in fringe or marginal growing areas to test the limits of potential production.

Of the 20 sites chosen, 11 were either abandoned or not recorded because of early frost, lack of moisture or weed and insect problems. Of the remaining nine sites, six yielded 1080 Kg (40 bushels) or more per acre while three in the fringe areas averaged 594 Kg (22 bushels) per acre.

King Grain reported that overall it appeared that soybeans of the X005 type can be grown successfully in the area of Manitoba south of the Trans-Canada Highway west of the Red River to the Saskatchewan border.

Peatlands tractor

A new tractor specially designed for working in the peatlands of Newfoundland is doing field trials this summer at Agriculture Canada's peat research substation, 90 Km. southwest of St. John's. The tractor is expected to solve the problems that arise with conventional machinery in the chronic wet conditions and coarse texture of the Newfoundland peat.

The peatlands are suitable for ridge plantings of carrots, turnips, potatoes and cole crops: some of them are already under cultivation and about 400,000 hectares could be developed for agriculture.

It was decided to develop a new tractor after scanning world tractor literature, which produced nothing suitable for the job. It had to have adequate flotation for wet conditions; capacity to operate power equipment and be able to work in ridged row crops of varying widths. It also had to be simple enough to be made at near competitive prices with other farm tractors and be suitable for general horticultural work under commercial conditions. The result — a prototype articulated tractor powered by a six cylinder engine — was on show earlier this year at the Salon d'Agriculture International in Montreal.

Beekeeping expands

Beekeeping is regarded as an important part of Canadian agriculture, particularly in the West. Honey production in 1977 was estimated to be 27.5 m. kilograms, valued at C\$32 m. The main producing provinces are Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Now Agriculture Canada's information services are encouraging expansion of the bee keeping business outside these traditional areas with a newly published pamphlet, *Bee Keeping in Eastern Canada*. Written by a former apiculturist, J. C. M. L'Arrivée, it gives special advice to novice beekeepers on the wintering of bees in the colder eastern climate.

"In eastern Canada bees can be overwintered outside in protective cases or brought into a bee cellar. In either case, ventilation must be good and the bees must have sufficient stores of food — at least 30 kilograms per colony." Honeybees can be obtained by purchasing either an established colony or package bees imported from the southern United States, M. L'Arrivée advises.

Conservation Crane mystery

There are now 75 whooping cranes in the world — which means that with intensive protection and encouragement from wildlife experts, the breed is gradually re-establishing itself. Some years back it was very close to extinction, with only 14 specimens remaining.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, which keeps a careful eye on the wild flock as it breeds in northern Canada, is currently faced with a mystery. Nine youngsters were banded last summer at the breeding ground in Wood Buffalo National Park, which straddles the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories. But when the migrating flock reached its wintering ground in Akansas, Texas, last winter, there were only eight banded youngsters — plus one unbanded one. The missing, banded bird turned up in the spring at Dodge City, a long way from the migrating route of the whoopers, in the company of some sandbill cranes. Where the young whooper spent the winter and how he connected up with the sandbills are questions puzzling the scientists: it is thought he may have wintered with the sandbills in western Texas or New Mexico. The origins of the unbanded bird are obscure: it seems likely to have been an orphan overlooked by the banders.

Of the 75 known whoopers, 69 form the main flock; a further six have been hatched in captivity and are living with sandbill colonies in the United States.

Why Dick Damron stays on the road



In the past 23 years, Dick Damron from Alberta has had numerous awards and citations for his contributions to country music. He has won the Canadian Academy of Country Music Entertainers (ACME's) Big Country award as top male singer for the past two years. In 1977 his song "Susan Flowers" was voted Single of the Year. In 1976 he won the top composer's award. Elizabeth Duncan interviewed him when he was in London earlier this year, singing in the tenth annual festival of country music at Wembley.

We're strolling along backstage while out front technicians are testing the lights and fiddling with television cameras. In half an hour, Damron will be performing in front of 14,000 people. He is not nervous about his second performance at Wembley. Why not, when even big-name country artists from America consider an invitation to play at this festival a real feather in their stetsons?

Wembley applause

"Well, I was here last year so I know what it's all about," he says matter-of-factly as we swing into his dressing room. "And anyway," he starts to tune his guitar, "I just want to get it over with so I can have a few drinks and relax." He laughs and it sounds suspiciously like a giggle. Singers

who spend afternoons signing autographs and thanking fans for buying their records don't giggle, do they?

On stage, his 15-minute performance is subdued — but the Wembley crowd applauds loudly. They seem to have liked what he did out there, but afterwards Damron confesses that he didn't. He can't quite put a finger on what he feels was wrong.

"Usually, I think I play on a higher energy level than I did tonight. Last year, I think the music was too laid back — it was just zap, zap, zap — and this time I thought I'd let people come to me. If you can create that moment with your music when the audience is really feeling what you're doing there and not just sitting through it, it's great. You know what you've done won't be forgotten the minute you've finished. They may forget the words to the music, but they won't forget how they felt when they heard them."

He settles back in a chair and takes a reflective sip of somebody else's gin and tonic.

The words are nice, but Damron says his priority is to write good music. He's not worried about being a Canadian in an American market: he's worried about being good.

"Canada doesn't have a music image, with the exception of a few people like Gordon Lightfoot and Anne Murray who have broken through. If I really worried about promoting myself in Britain, I think I could be a bigger name in country music here than I am in Canada. In Canada, country music is everywhere; here, they really appreciate it. People in Wales have asked me to do specific songs from specific albums: that doesn't happen too often in Canada. What I'm saying is not an ego-trip: there are so many downs in this business, you need the kind of lift and appreciation you get when you perform in Britain to get the old blood going again, to get inspired again."

Nervous back home

The 43-year-old entertainer still lives in Bentley, Alberta, where he was born: a small town half way between Calgary and Edmonton, Damron says it still holds his toughest critics. "Sometimes, I sing at the old folks' homes in Alberta and then I feel really nervous: I don't know if they'll enjoy it."

It's partly this professional fragility that appeals to people. It isn't false modesty: it's a question of doing what he wants to do and then being vaguely surprised to find that people like it. His songs express more wonder than anything else about life: also, a conflict between the desire to settle down and its opposite — wanting to stay on the road.

"It's a constant struggle because, when you are on the road, you feel there must be more to life than this — it would be so nice to be at home and put your feet up. But after I'm home a couple of weeks I get restless."

Truth and fantasy

His Wembley appearance was followed by a six-week tour of Britain, Holland and Germany. He says he makes less money on tour than he would by staying at home and playing it safe, but the tours help him retain his integrity as an artist.

"You have to establish credibility with people, both as a performer and as a person. You have to put yourself out for people or you don't progress. It's like studying for a degree — as soon as you get it, you quit. I can't afford to do that."

But Damron doesn't talk seriously for long. "Sometimes," he confided, "it all comes down to a saying I saw on my brother's girlfriend's T-shirt: 'I'm tired of seeking the truth and now I'm looking for a damn good fantasy'. That's what I really feel like. Sometimes."

From the toss of a coin to the turn of a card, He has done what he could from the start. And he's stood in the shadows of sinners and losers, Sometimes you can't tell them apart. Soldier of Fortune, by Dick Damron.

News Diary

Fewer children, more old people

Canada is about to undergo a "shift in age structure" of a magnitude unparalleled this century, according to a recent report by Statistics Canada.

"An increase in the proportion of the older population and a drop in the number of children are leading indications of a major shift, which will undoubtedly have important implications for Canada society and its economy," says the report.

It urges that the Government should be planning ahead for a society which by the year 2031 will see every senior citizen supported by only three working Canadians, compared with seven today.

Retired Canadians now make up nine per cent of the population. By the year 2,000 the proportion is expected to increase to 12 per cent and within the next 50 years the predicted figure is 20 per cent.

At the same time, the report predicts that the fertility rate, already dropping, will continue to drop from its present level of 1.8 births per woman to 1.5 by the mid-1980s: after that it is expected to stabilize.

Thus the proportion of national effort required to meet the needs of the younger population is expected to drop. At the same time, the growing proportion of people over 65 will require a different kind of support. Instead of providing food, clothing, shelter and education for children, more of the national income will have to be directed into old age security, pensions, hospital care and nursing for the old. The report emphasizes the need for expansion in the medical field and warns the Government against assuming that the health care services need only expand at the same rate as the population. At present, it says, patients of 65 and older use about 30 per cent of hospital patient-days, although they make up only 9 per cent of the population: as their numbers increase, so must the amount of available medical care.

The implications of the report touch both federal and provincial governments, which share health and hospital costs equally.

Blowin' in the wind

The huge, sculptural form raised on a sand dune in Quebec's Iles-de-la-Madeleine is not the work of a French Canadian artist: it is a giant windmill, being built by the

National Research Council and Hydro-Quebec's research institute for wind power experiments. It stands 153 feet above a barren landscape, near Harve-aux-Maisons, in an area frequently described as the windiest place in Canada. Director of the project is Peter South.



'Bosie from Bombay'

Canadian fringe event at the Edinburgh Festival this September.



Mazumdar's play concerns Oscar Wilde — but seen from a new viewpoint, that of his friend Lord Alfred Douglas, who talks warmly and wittily of the poet and dramatist, so that through his impressions, as transposed to the stage by Mazumdar, we see a totally different aspect of the character of Wilde.

The play takes us from their early friendship, through the dreadful days of Wilde's disgrace during the double trial, and later when the playwright had exiled himself to France, where shortly afterwards he died.

Mazumdar has made a thorough study of the subject, from letters and diaries and impressions of contemporaries of Douglas — who although such an apparent Edwardian figure, actually lived until shortly after the second World War. After one performance in Canada the lawyer who had defended Douglas (or 'Bosie' as Wilde called him) came backstage to talk to the actor. "You were most like him," he said — and wept. This is actually a considerable compliment when one considers the fact that Mazumdar has to spend two hours before each show 'whiting up' to convert his own dark features to those of the pale colouring of the young English peer.

"Not since the great days of the Dominion Drama Festival has the accomplishment of a young actor won such attention," said drama critic Herbert Whittaker. He was referring to a young Montreal actor, Bombay-born Maxim Mazumdar, who was presenting his own one-man show *Oscar Remembered* at the Stratford Festival. The monodrama was seen for the first time in London earlier this summer, and it will be a

The actor/playwright wrote *Oscar Remembered* at 22, and since has written other monodramas on Rimbaud and most recently, Diaghilev, which the dancer Anton Dolin will present as a vehicle for himself at the Fair Oak Theatre at Rogate, Sussex, this summer. Next spring *Oscar Remembered* will be presented in New York, with Maxim Mazumdar repeating his Canadian and British success.

High Commissioner celebrates



Paul Martin, Canada's High Commissioner in London and one of the country's most distinguished statesmen, celebrated his 75th birthday on June 23.

A member of the Liberal government cabinets of Mackenzie King, St. Laurent, Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, Martin spent his birthday doing what he likes best — talking to a university audience, in this case the University of Buckingham, about Canada and Canadian affairs.

In his three-and-a-half years as High Commissioner, Martin has impressed his younger associates with the apparently boundless energy he puts into the job. An early riser, he often works 16 hours a day attending to diplomatic matters. He spent more than 50 hours over a three-day period travelling by air to attend the recent funeral in Australia of the late Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

Although Martin often is associated with foreign diplomacy, particularly through his past attachments to the League of Nations, the United Nations, N.A.T.O., and as External Affairs Minister under Prime Minister Pearson, he takes particular pride in his role in one of the most important domestic developments of the century.

That was in the mid-1950s when Martin, as Minister of Health and Welfare, was largely responsible for Government policy on the development and dissemination of the Salk polio vaccine. A sufferer from polio himself as a youngster — he lost the sight of one eye and has a permanent disability to his right shoulder — Martin recalls the government's decision to subsidize the Connaught Laboratories in Toronto in the production of the vaccine.

"When one of the American polio vaccine batches went wrong, the question was, what would we do in Canada? I had to make a very important decision over a weekend, and we decided that . . . we would go ahead with its production and its use. We became the first country to successfully carry on a wide programme across the nation of the vaccine, and we didn't have one casualty.

A bilingual Canadian from Pembroke, Ontario, Martin does not like to talk about retirement, but when he does retire, he hopes to be able to spend his time working on his memoirs. Always the strident federalist, Martin issued the following resolution:

"I can tell you this, if this problem with Quebec is not resolved satisfactorily — and I think it will be resolved satisfactorily and that we will stay united — but if it is not resolved, I certainly will not sit on the sidelines."

Eat Arctic

People living in arctic regions are being advised to get to grips with native foods for the sake of good health. Nutritionists have been comparing the relative values of such "civilised" delicacies as veal, lamb and beefsteak with the eskimo diet of seal, walrus and caribou. And in every case they have discovered that native foods offer a far higher protein content and, more significantly, less fat. The most beneficial foods, says a recently published survey, are ptarmigan followed by seal, walrus and moose. One animal not recommended is beaver because of its fat content, which is broadly equivalent to that of the frankfurter.

Musical entente cordiale

The Huggett family are currently touring Canada with a programme of early music which sets out to be politically topical in its theme of "The Field of the Cloth of Gold".

The family of six, which brings early music to life with original instruments, costumes and dances, comes from Ottawa, though they are familiar to British audiences from regular wintering in Britain. The title of their current programme recalls the rivalry between England and France which existed

Phone for the deaf

A visual telephone for use by the deaf is expected to be available for tests this autumn and will probably be on the Canadian market by the end of the year.

The visual phone is a portable keyboard, like a typewriter, into which a telephone handset can be placed. Above the keyboard is a space where the typewritten message is displayed in a manner similar to the display on a small portable electronic calculator. Both sender and receiver need a keyboard.

Brenda Bighin, of Bell Northern's publication department, told the press how it works. "To initiate a conversation, the caller lifts the handset from the regular telephone and locks it into the acoustic coupler of the visual ear, then dials the number on the telephone. An indicator on the display signals the progress of the call, such as dial tone, busy tone and ringback tone.

"After the connection is established, conversation can commence by simply typing the desired message which will be displayed on both the transmitting and receiving units.

At the receiving end, a flashing light shows the telephone is ringing and that the telephone is also linked to the acoustic coupler and the two can communicate by keyboard and display."

The machine was developed in 1975 by a University of Toronto engineer.

at the time of Henry VIII and Francis of France: in 1520 the two kings met in France amid an extraordinary display of wealth to try to cement friendly relations after a long period of discord. Though the meeting was splendid and cordial, nothing really came of it.

Leslie Huggett, father of the family of musicians, said before the programme went on tour that they had devised it to emphasize the "positive" aspect of the Field of the Cloth of Gold. They are performing in the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake and then touring Quebec and some of the Maritime Provinces.



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"I don't feel at ease with the people I meet in first-class carriages and expensive restaurants: I don't think they feel at ease either, but they have a marvellous armour. They pretend to be at ease.

"Biologically, we're not meant to be in contact with new people all the time. It's extraordinarily difficult to keep putting out your tentacles and making contact. As an animal, we've evolved over a couple of million years adapted to a social life within a very small tribe. The switchboard in our head has connections which can handle between 150 and 200 people. If you belong to a small tribe that's about the number you know from birth to death: there's no pulling out plugs and shoving in new ones because it's a static state".

Farley and Clare, his wife, lived for five years in a Newfoundland fishing community which fitted this ideal, everybody knowing each other and drifting unselfconsciously through each other's kitchens: the children called every grown-up "uncle" or "aunt". The Mowats were made welcome, but knew they could never truly belong. So now they divide their time between two homes 1,200 miles apart — one in Ontario and the other in Nova Scotia. Clare is continually packing suitcases, while Farley declares with every appearance of cheerfulness, "We're social cripples, so we may as well accept that we live in an unnatural state".

One way to survive perpetual upheaval is to create your own atmosphere as you go. Farley Mowat does this more effectively than most: the words flow, the humour flows, people listen and like him. He evolved the style when he first started writing and his Canadian publishers told their writers to go out and publicize themselves: Pierre Berton and Earle Birney are two others who helped build up a public for Canadian authors in this way.

His down-to-basics attitude cuts a lot of ice, whether he is socializing under the chandeliers of the High Commission in London or with Russians in the remoter parts of Siberia, where he has travelled to meet Russian Eskimos and spend the royalties brought in by the sale of his books in Russia. It also cuts through some awkward political barriers that might embarrass anyone with a subtler interest in the polemics of freedom.

He says: "I met a lot of Russian writers and travelled to Siberia with them. That was great: when you get across the Urals the bureaucratic net thins out and everybody is anti-bureaucratic, like they used to be in western Canada in the early years.

"I didn't meet any so-called dissidents. Most of the Russian writers rather laugh at the dissidents. They say, 'What's the point of what they are doing? If they want to change the country they should write inside it as we do'. They don't see any advantage in creating international incidents. They

know how far they can go and they keep pushing the barriers a little bit all the time."

This from a man who refuses to take any kind of government grant back home in Canada in case he should feel inhibited in the freedom of his writing. But politics is not what Farley Mowat is about. His active concern in Russia was with the Soviet Government's treatment of its northern settlements. He has been consistently effective in his championship of those people, animals and places he sees to be threatened by the advance of civilization and his pen has been mighty in their cause.

Now at 57 he is writing his autobiography. "Well, why not write about oneself? I don't know any subject that any writer knows more about. The pose that we mustn't write about ourselves is simply a pose. All writing is essentially autobiographical if it's any good, so why go through all the nonsense of disguising it?"

He says he is uninhibited by the absence of disguise "because I have a high disregard for my own dignity. It puzzles and bewilders me that I am usually the butt of the jokes of life, but then I think we all are. Only most of us take it too seriously".

Farley Mowat books just published in Britain as Pan paperbacks are *The Grey Seas Under*; *The Serpent's Coil*, about a liberty ship that refused to die; *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*; and *The Boat Who Wouldn't Float*.

Canadian in Britain

Man behind the revolution at WHS

By Roy Turman

Being a "crazy Canadian" sounds like an improbable credential for scaling the commanding heights of British business, but it didn't stop Peter Bennett of Toronto.

He's Canadian to the core, yet he somehow found his way to the top in one of the most quintessentially English of English companies — W. H. Smith and Son.

Everybody knows Smith's — stationers, newsagents and booksellers — as British an institution as cricket, crumpets or afternoon tea. A railway station in Britain without a W. H. Smith bookstall would be like a train without tracks.

In short it's a thriving symbol of olde England, and on the surface not exactly the natural habitat for North Americans schooled in a breezier business climate. In the past, W. H. Smith has been associated with a certain formality and traditionalism, leading observers to rank it among the "most prissy" of corporations.



Now this British dynasty, dating from the days when the guillotines of the French Revolution were still streaked with blood, has Bennett directing its £393m. annual business from an executive suite just off Fleet Street in London, imparting his personal stamp to a firm that employs 18,000 people, runs nearly 1,000 vehicles up to 13 million miles a year and is still expanding.

"It's a marvellous life," says Bennett, a tall, spruce, athletic-looking man who looks years younger than his age, which is 60. It's been said that he and Dick Troughton, whom he succeeded early in 1977 as chairman, were responsible for transforming W. H. Smith's retail operations, dragging it kicking and screaming, in one commentator's words, into the twentieth century.

In the year ended January 1978, Smith's reaped record profits of £20,172,000 (before tax) and Bennett is keeping up the expansionist pace, moving into Europe by way of the Netherlands and experimenting with new lines, such as knitting wools, dress specialities and records. "It's going to be quite a challenge to maintain the growth," Bennett told *Canada Today* in an interview.

Born in Toronto in 1917 of English parents, educated at Upper Canada College and at the University of Toronto, Bennett says that the Second World War was a major formative influence in his life.

At 22, he was platoon commander with the 1st Battalion of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, rising to command the Essex Scottish Regiment from Caen in Normandy to Antwerp in Holland.

After the war he helped set up W. H. Smith's subsidiary in Toronto. He transferred to England in 1950 to become managing director of the parent company.

Taking charge of retail operations, Bennett gradually moved the cosy family company away from its monolithic base of newspaper distribution, dropping the occasional clanger in the process. A move into machine tools, for instance, proved abortive.

The W.H. Smith operation, so familiar to travellers today, started way back in 1792 when Henry Walton Smith and his wife Anna opened a small news agency near Grosvenor Square in London. In the early 1800s another of the Smiths, William Henry, built up a fleet of small carts and fast horses to carry news to country readers within 48 hours. The coming of the railway to the London area in 1848 gave the family firm a big impetus, and Smith's made the most of it, supplying not only books and newspapers to beguile the train journey but candles to read by and rugs to keep passengers warm. Halfway through the nineteenth century, Smith's had 550 bookstalls across the country.

Central buying

The second W. H. Smith was Leader of the House of Commons under Benjamin Disraeli and First Lord of the Admiralty, immortalised by Gilbert and Sullivan in the song about "the ruler of the Queen's Nay-vee."

As the new boss of the bookstall empire, Bennett has introduced central buying for a broad range of merchandise. Above all he's an exponent of what he calls "participative planning," a project whereby all employees are handed a form and asked to fill it in anonymously, listing the company's plus and minus points and making proposals for changes. These are forwarded to one of 18 six-member planning teams for processing into an "action plan."

"No matter how silly the suggestion, the idea must not be destroyed," says Bennett. "A place must be found for it somewhere."

International Management, a business magazine which studied Bennett's operation, commented that the method enables all staff to feel they are involved in the company's plans, as well as having an outlet to express grievances to senior management without fear of reprisal.

"An employee feels better when he has written his ideas down on paper," says Bennett. "It's a great emotional release."

Asked about the company's reputation for being somewhat prissy and conservative, Bennett merely smiles. "It was a great advantage being a Canadian," he says. "They thought I was crazy anyhow."

Economic Digest

Trudeau promises growth

Prime Minister Trudeau went on Canadian television in July to announce that the Government would be taking "much bolder action" to ensure the country's continued prosperity and re-affirm its unity.

Previous Government measures had laid a solid foundation for continuing progress but he had come to the conclusion that "we must have a major re-ordering of Government priorities. We must reduce the size of government and use the resources to sustain growth," he said.

A series of new initiatives would be announced in the near future, he added pledging to stimulate the economy, reduce unemployment, stimulate new investments in manufacturing, energy and resources, and help those, especially the elderly, who are hurt by inflation.

He said the new programme would be financed "by cutting from within, by using only saved resources to stimulate the economy."

Mr. Trudeau went on to announce that two billion dollars would be cut from current and planned expenditures and that there would be no growth in the federal public service. The rule of the government would be — deliver more for less.

He said the Government would be "very tough" in public sector negotiations and promised to remove "the intrusions of many government policies and regulations from individuals and businesses." In some cases this would mean returning functions to the private sector.

The Prime Minister announced at the same time that the Post Office would become a Crown Corporation, "free from many of the constraints of a Government department."

Higher profits forecast

Labour costs in Canada are being kept under control and as a result company profits should continue to increase, reported the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in July.

In an annual economic survey of Canada it said that on present indications, the next twelve months were likely to see some further improvement in cost and external trade performance and some recovery in domestic demand.

"Helped by indirect tax cuts, the inflation rate should come down in 1978 and a further substantial improvement in the country's labour cost position seems likely despite the fact that direct price and wage controls are being phased out," said the survey.

After a marked decline in 1975, Canada had been fortunate in experiencing the fastest growth rate of foreign markets in the 24-country OECD area, so helping to sustain exports and easing the burden of adjustment.

Devoting a major section to Canada's employment situation, the report said Canada had also experienced the fastest growth in employment throughout the OECD area in the last ten years. Despite this, it had registered one of the highest unemployment rates, which to a large extent reflected the rapid growth of the work force because of demographic factors. Shifts in demand and output structure which had led to a marked increase in female participation in the work force also contributed.

Trade surplus declines

In the second quarter of this year, Canada had a trade surplus of C\$391 million compared with C\$1.46 billion in the first three months. Although exports and imports were both higher in the second quarter, reported Statistics Canada, exports rose only marginally to C\$12.59 billion while imports increased by ten per cent to C\$12.2 billion.

Exports to the United States were at a record level with increases in motor vehicles and parts, fish, fertilisers, chemicals, non-ferrous metals and machinery and equipment. But exports to overseas countries, except to Britain and Japan, dropped.

Imports from the US rose by nearly 14 per cent to a new record while imports from overseas increased by nearly four per cent. There were larger imports of food, some industrial materials, non-automotive equipment and consumer goods, but fewer imports of coffee, metals and crude oil.

Unemployment down

Canada's unemployment rate dropped slightly in July for the first time in four months, Statistics Canada reports. The seasonally-adjusted rate was 8.4 per cent compared with 8.6 per cent in the four preceding months. The actual number of jobless was 927,000.

The unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 improved slightly — down to 14.2 per cent — and the total number of people with jobs increased to 10.64 million. This represents an increase of 422,000 in the number working in the last year.

The jobless rate in July fell in six provinces and rose in the remaining four. The province-by-province rates were as follows with the June figure in brackets:— British Columbia, 7.7 per cent (7.8 per cent); Newfoundland, 16.7 per cent (17.3 per cent); Ontario, 7.3 per cent (7.4 per cent); Prince Edward Island, 9.1 per cent (9.7 per cent); Quebec, 10.5 per cent (11.4 per cent); Saskatchewan, 3.9 per cent (5 per cent); Alberta, 4.8 per cent (4.7 per cent); Manitoba, 6.7 per cent (6.6 per cent); New Brunswick, 12.9 per cent (11.6 per cent); Nova Scotia, 10.9 per cent (10.7 per cent).

'We're social cripples,' says Farley Mowat

By Jenny Pearson

Farley Mowat, visiting London with his wife Clare to publicize a fistful of his books recently launched on the British paperback market, cut an unlikely figure against the hushed opulence of Quaglino's Hotel in the West End. The direct manner, straight into first names and no nonsense, the springy sailor's stride, the offer of coffee in a cup rinsed at the basin — "We've only just had breakfast" — had us down to essentials in a moment.

That's his way with people, with situations, with words. It's deceptive, because he can have you believing that you are reminiscing by a prairie camp fire or on the quarterdeck of a ship, old friends, when actually you have just walked into his hotel, a complete stranger, some 10 minutes back.

That's the style of which best-selling novels are made. Once into a Mowat novel — and it doesn't take more than a couple of sentences to get in — you are into willing suspension of disbelief in a big way. You don't even realize you have been taken over: the sentences follow one another with a kind of inevitability. When he is being funny, the humour bubbles up with a kind of internal logic which keeps you laughing and laughing and looking for more.

Take his story of a character called Aaron Poole, who features with the author's father in a reminiscence dating back to Mowat's childhood on the prairies, in the funniest of all his books, *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*.

The way Aaron felt

"Aaron was a withered and eagle-featured little man who emigrated from the Maritime Provinces some thirty years earlier and who, for twenty-nine years, had been hungering for the sound and feel of salt water under a vessel's keel. The fact that he had originally come from the interior of New Brunswick and had never actually been to sea in anything larger than a row-boat during his Maritime years was not relevant to the way Aaron felt. As a Maritimer, exiled on the prairies, he believed himself to be of one blood with the famous seamen of the north Atlantic ports; and in twenty-nine years a man can remember a good many things that ought to have happened. Aaron's memory was so excellent that he could talk for hours of the times when he had sailed out of Lunenburg for the Grand Banks, first as cabin boy, then as an able-bodied seaman, then as mate,



and finally as skipper of the smartest fishing schooner on the coast."

As the story goes on, Aaron builds a large boat in his basement, builds it very badly and caulks it with liberal quantities of putty: its improbable journey down river with Aaron and Mowat's father aboard could not be funnier if they had been specially scripted for Messrs. Laurel and Hardy. Likewise, the descriptions of his dog, Mutt, hero of the book, fence-walking to the discomfiture of neighbours' cats and the fury of their most fearsome dogs in the yards below: one is left wondering, *could* it have happened quite as funnily as that? The answer to this unworthy thought is that like Aaron's fabulous sea memories, if it didn't happen, it ought to have done.

Humour is only one aspect of Farley Mowat's prolific writing. He has written 23 books, fiction and non-fiction, which have been translated in 20 languages and published in 40 countries. Some are autobiographical, others are based on careful and intensive study of a subject that interests and concerns him: he has written about Eskimos and Indians, about wolves and whales, in terms of passionate protest against the damaging side-effects of "progress". The Eskimos have given him the affectionate nickname of "Kipmetna", which loosely translated means "noisy little dog", on account of his angry protests on their behalf.

He has a habit of disappearing for months, or even years, into one or other of the earth's remotest corners and then coming up with a first-hand account of some unfamiliar way of life — like the tough heroism of a Newfoundland sailing com-

munity, depicted in his graphic book about deep-sea salvage men, *The Grey Seas Under*; like *People of the Deer*, his first book, about Ihalmiut Eskimos, with whom he lived for two years on the Barrens.

His first visit to the Arctic resulted in the publication in 1959 of *The Desperate People*, a book about the plight of the Eskimos which combined with a nationwide campaign through the media to bring about government action on behalf of the native people of the North.

He recalls the crusade and its practical outcome with characteristic humour, not unmingled with irony, as it now seems that the rescue operation he helped to launch may in effect result in the destruction of those aspects of Eskimo life he admired and even, in a way, envied. He says that where, in the fifties, he found "almost no Government: just the Hudson's Bay Company and a handful of RCMP", the government has now moved in "en masse".

"Now the government probably has more bureaucrats in the Arctic than there are Eskimos. The standard joke is that an Eskimo family consists of the mother, father, three children, one sociologist and one bureaucrat".

A recent book of short stories, *The Snow Walker*, celebrates the ingenuity and courage with which Eskimos as he has known them survive in a perpetual struggle against their environment. Now, he says: "They are becoming more and more like us. Whether that's a good thing, I don't know. It's up to them, if they want to be second-class men on the progress train bound for destruction."

What is the alternative? Isn't it a bit unrealistic, to expect them to opt romantically for a life of hardship?

Mowat puffs at his pipe, reflecting, and replies; "There is a middle way. They can use certain aspects of our technology and still retain the essence of their own way of life. Like the Thule people in northern Greenland: *they* still live in the country, but they have modern equipment and use helicopters for their medical needs. At the same time, they live in discreet little tribal groups and eat the food of the country and are very healthy people".

Despairing view

He is entirely serious in his belief that the life-style of small communities, which he has discovered and shared with different groups in the Arctic and in Newfoundland, is what people were really designed for: that civilization as we know it has alienated us from our true selves. It is a fairly despairing view and one that stands out oddly against all the razmataz of a book promotion tour. He copes by maintaining an ironical detachment and laughing at himself in the role of best-selling author, which at the same time he plays with practised virtuosity.

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