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A conference to determine the state of the French language in Canada

The first Biennial Conference on French Canada, held in Chicoutimi, Quebec, August 10 to 17, was convened "to determine the state of the French language in Canada...by examining the everyday living of French-speaking Canadians", said Environment Minister Jeanne Sauvé, addressing over 1,000 delegates from all parts of Canada. By assessing the present situation, she continued, and pooling experience, "we can lay the groundwork for any possible improvement".

"...In today's society, we must create an open culture, authentic, capable of attracting young people and fostering in them a love for cultural legacy," Mrs. Sauvé stated. "The solution to the needs of these young people is directly related to what is commonly known as the cultural explosion, to which French Canada is inescapably tied...." Passages from her address follow:

* * * *

Canada's dynamic qualities are manifested in a high standard of living, vigorous population growth and, especially, an enterprising spirit in all fields of endeavour, particularly the political, industrial and cultural. Canada's French-speaking population is no exception; it often embodies this national spirit and drive in an energetic and vigorous fashion....

These youthful and dynamic qualities are reassuring. Sparsely populated, multicultural, and characterized by two linguistic groups, Canada is faced with quite a challenge: to harmoniously combine its various characteristics, while developing a national identity and lifestyle.... Identifying the state of this essential facet of the Canadian scene is a primary indication of participation in Canada's progress and, consequently, a contribution to the advancement of its citizens.

Evolution of French language

Discussing French Canada is somewhat synonymous to reflecting on the status of the French language in Canada. Linguists like to discuss languages in terms of esthetics. By this, they mean any examination of the conditions under which a language must evolve to maintain its beauty, its original purity. According to them, a language must remain in a state of constant evolution. However, this evolution must not permit a language to lose certain fundamental traits or

characteristics that constitute its distinctive quality or essence, as it was called in the past....

I don't believe it would be going too far to speak of a certain French-Canadian estheticism, where the idea of linguistic evolution takes on some importance. The delegates should, therefore, use the procedures of these linguists to a certain degree and examine the conditions under which the French language must evolve in Canada, particularly in the North American context.

To carry the comparison further, certain linguists propose to revive a language by leaving it open to contributions from modern civilization, thus allowing it to be rejuvenated and enriched. Reminiscent of the period in history we now refer to as the Renaissance, this proposal would update and illustrate a language, "neo-French" for example, until its base is broadened to a point where it can be ranked alongside all other modern languages. The objective of these linguists is to perfect a language of scientific and technical expression, yet retain its literary, artistic quality.

Aren't we faced with the same situation with regard to the French language in Canada? Isn't one of this Conference's objectives to determine what new elements are liable to enrich the French language in Canada? Like the linguists, the delegates must define the terms of wholly Canadian use of

the language, its requirements reflecting the needs of the various French-speaking communities in all parts of the country.

Role of Quebec

Faced with this task, it is normal that we should rely heavily on the province of Quebec. Since Quebec is the heart and soul of French Canada, it must be counted on to pump an increasing amount of French culture into the veins of this country's far-reaching, isolated pockets of French-speaking citizenry. By hosting this Conference, the city of Chicoutimi has shown a willingness to assume this role. A commitment of this type by Quebec is an important sign that brings hope to us all.

Like science and technology, language and culture are also subject to evolution, progress and change. The process of adjustment, adaptation and, sometimes, compromise is possibly even more difficult in the latter case. The mobility and industrialization of the modern era are having a noticeable effect on all the socio-cultural and linguistic activities that surround us.

The French presence in Canada is not limited to folklore. I am among those who believe that the everyday occurrences of the French-speaking community in Canada, regardless of location, are the expression of a fully-assumed collective way of life, bearing the mark of freedom and progress.

Bilingualism federal aim

In your analysis of the situation, in your study of the priorities, it is important that you remain aware of the fact that the Federal Government is pursuing more or less the same objectives as many of the groups represented at this Conference. To that effect, let me quote the Prime Minister, who is also the honorary chairman of this Biennial Conference. In a speech delivered before the House of Commons on October 2, 1974, Mr. Trudeau said:

"We must find a way to close the book on the old dream of English unilingualism, but we must also accept both sides of the linguistic divide, the actual consequences of a linguistic dualism, not just tolerated with more or less silent resistance, but openly accepted, supported, encouraged. It stands to reason that the French now

being spoken by six million people on a continent inhabited by some 240 million English-speaking people must be given special consideration in order to survive and flourish."

Bilingualism is one of the basic elements of Canadian society. In the Federal Government's eyes, official bilingualism remains a national objective, tending to guarantee both language groups the opportunity to live according to their preferred standards.

Progress from mere survival

The linguistic dichotomy in our country, the national bilingualism policy, the French language in Canada, all rest on certain conditions and are based on certain facts. First, there is the French-speaking community, present and active in various parts of the country. In spite of its minority position in this country and throughout the continent, and notwithstanding the fact that it is mostly concentrated in a specific area, the French community has progressed from a state of mere survival to become dynamic, militant, and resolved in its effort to expand and flourish.

Through a concerted effort to create public awareness, Quebec has already gained a certain amount of recognition as the leading proponent of the French language in this country. This success is basic to the progress of the French language in Canada because it enables Quebec to further broaden its horizons. But some obstacles have yet to be overcome. As yet, there are still a few Canadians, from all geographic and cultural origins, who fail to understand that the use of French as the basic language of instruction, work, play, and culture in Quebec is as natural as the use of English in British Columbia or Newfoundland.

* * * *

As regards culture and heritage, the key to the future is not held exclusively by managers and technocrats, or by scientists, to whom the *Apollo-Soyuz* mission presented only minor problems. No, the people holding a special key to the future are the artists, the poets, and all other cultural creators and moderators. But the problem remains a very real one. In today's society, we must create an

open culture, authentic, capable of attracting young people and fostering in them a love for a cultural legacy. This is a fundamental question, the most important one really, since it means cultural survival.

Cultural explosion

The solution to the needs of these young people is directly related to what is commonly known as the cultural explosion, to which French Canada is inescapably tied. This explosion leads to a strange culture, where all previous values seem inverted, in search of truth, honesty, vital energy, permanent celebration, and youthful brotherhood. The point is that a culture cannot be shaped from nothing. The ideology and practice behind it can only be developed and consolidated through the aspirations and values of the social body, notably the young.

* * * *

International peat-moss plant

An international manufacturer of specialized peat-moss merchandise will establish a new \$5.5-million Canadian plant in Shippegan, New Brunswick.

Jiffy Products Canada Limited was attracted to the province through the efforts of the New Brunswick Development Corporation, which has been authorized to make the company a long-term loan of \$3,118,000.

Jiffy will employ 84 people. Construction of the 68,000-square foot facility is expected to begin this autumn with commercial production scheduled for next spring.

The parent firm of Jiffy Products International, which has plants in Norway, Denmark and Japan, will manufacture two major lines in its Canadian facility. "Jiffy-pots" in a variety of sizes will be made from peat and other materials for commercial and home use as a growing medium for seedlings. A pellet that expands with moisture to prepare both pot and soil for plants will also be produced.

Jiffy Products Canada has accepted a grant offer of \$1,171,626 from the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

New approach to Canada/United States energy policy

In a speech at the dedication ceremony of the Libby Dam in northwest Montana, U.S., attended by President Gerald Ford, Energy Mines and Resources Minister Donald Macdonald stated that a policy of "enlightened self-interest" would form the basis for energy negotiations in future between Canada and the U.S.

The Libby Dam, built at a cost of \$470 million, is a joint project of the two countries under an agreement signed in 1961.

A "pragmatic project-by-project" approach to energy needs was advocated by Mr. Macdonald, rather than a "comprehensive resource trade package — a so-called continental energy policy".

"What is perhaps not widely understood in the United States," stated the Minister, "is that Canada does not constitute some vast storehouse of energy." He spoke also of a possible

swap of Canadian and U.S. oil through a pipeline from the Gulf of Mexico to Michigan.

President Ford, in his address, stated that the United States had to concentrate on developing alternative sources of energy, such as solar, geothermal and nuclear power to lessen reliance on overseas producers.

"Our friends to the North have had to reduce and may in the distant future eliminate exports of oil and gas to the United States," said Mr. Ford. If Canada abided by this decision, he said, the U.S. would have to make up the supply by trading with Arab and other sources.

Mr. Macdonald said later that he and the President had discussed the matter privately and that Mr. Ford agreed that each country must cope with its own energy problems. Mr. Ford understood, stated Mr. Macdonald, Canada's need to cut exports of oil and gas.

Towards fisheries accord with Spain

Canada and Spain have agreed on a plan for inspectors of both nations to work together for improved compliance with fisheries-management obligations required by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF).

The two countries have also expressed their readiness to discuss at an early opportunity a bilateral agreement to provide for continued Spanish fishing off Canada's Atlantic Coast should fisheries-management jurisdiction change.

Canada plans to renew at an ICNAF meeting in Montreal in September its request at the June ICNAF meeting in Edinburgh for a 40 percent reduction in foreign fishing off Canada's Atlantic Coast and a larger share for Canadian fishermen.

Canada has actively supported at the Law of the Sea Conference extension of the economic zone controlled by coastal nations, including control of fisheries.

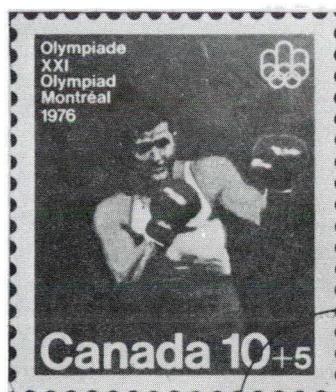
The informal accords between Canada and Spain were announced in a joint *communiqué* following meetings in Ottawa, August 6 and 7.

Olympic Action stamps

Three additional stamps in the Olympic Action series, depicting boxing, fencing and judo, are the third set of surcharged stamps to be issued by the Canada Post Office. They went on sale August 6.



When surcharged stamps are sold by Post Office, net proceeds from the surcharge are used to support both the Olympics and Canadian amateur athletes. When they are obtained through the Philatelic Service the total value, including surcharge, less costs, goes to the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and to the Olympic Trust Fund to help amateur athletes.



Donations in support of the 1976 Olympics are tax deductible; receipts are issued by the Post Office for any single purchase when the surcharge amounts to \$5 or over.



Train ticket tie with U.S.

Canadian National and Amtrak signed a special agreement on August 18 that will enable rail travellers from either Canada or the United States to purchase transportation on both national rail lines in a single transaction.

The interline agreement will permit a Canadian National or Amtrak passenger to purchase tickets for transportation and accommodation from the point of departure in Canada or the United States, to any American or Canadian city served by Amtrak or Canadian National. The agreement, to take effect on September 15, was announced by G.C. Campbell, CN's vice-president, passenger marketing, and Paul Reistrup, the president of Amtrak.

Canadian National and Amtrak reservation agents at central locations will have access to the other company's computerized reservation system. Each will accept enquiries and provide information to the general public regarding services, fares and reserva-

tions over the other's lines. Authorized travel agents will also be able to sell rail transportation and accommodation over CN and Amtrak lines.

The railway officers described the agreement to facilitate and encourage train travel and tourism between the U.S. and Canada as an important step in preparing for next year's American bicentennial and the Olympic activities being held in Canada.

Canadian National serves Canada with its network of intercity and trans-continental passenger trains, buses in Newfoundland and operates ferry services on the East Coast. Amtrak trains provide direct service to Montreal and to Vancouver, while Amtrak travellers to Port Huron or Detroit, Michigan, can cross the border to connect with Canadian National trains at Sarnia and Windsor respectively.

Governments help find soapstone

Eskimo sculptors in the Eastern Arctic are faced with a shortage of the types of stone suitable for their carvings, which provide a major source of income in many northern communities.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan said recently that his department would help the Government of the Northwest Territories, which is hiring student geologists and native summer students to search for the needed stone. A graduate geologist from Indian and Northern Affairs will supervise the work of the students.

The settlements most affected by the shortage are Igloolik, Pelly Bay, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset. The search will, therefore, concentrate in these locations.

Good, carvable stone (commonly called *soapstone*) varies in geological features from one community to another. This gives each area its own distinctive carvings in varying colours and textures.

Native carvings are sold mainly through Canadian Arctic Producers, a wholesale marketing agency soon to be controlled by the Eskimo co-operatives.

"The popularity of Inuit sculptures is just exhausting existing supplies of stone," Mr. Buchanan said. "A systematic search is needed to find new deposits, otherwise the Inuit carvers might lose their means of livelihood."

Forage-fed beef could answer shortage of world food

Cattlemen, consumers and the world at large could benefit substantially if domestic beef cattle were fed less grain and more processed forage, suggests a background study released recently by the Food Prices Review Board.

The study, first in a series related to the Board's work on food policy, was prepared for internal consideration and is being released to the public as a means of stimulating discussion.

The document argues that world hunger is not the result of physical food shortages. Instead, the authors say that the world can and does produce enough food for everyone and will continue to do so into the immediate future.

Results of study

The reason for their conclusion is that livestock inefficiently convert grain into meat. Each 100 pounds of grain fed to animals yields no more than 40 pounds, and in many instances, as little as six pounds of additional food for human consumption. Total food supply, then, is reduced as more grain is fed to animals. By feeding animals forage, rather than grain, much more food would be made available for human consumption, provided the land used to grow the forage is not suited to growing grain. Internationally, for instance, the move to greater meat consumption has meant that as much as one third of all grain produced is used as animal feed, an amount sufficient to supply the current food requirements of China and India combined.

The authors do not suggest that beef or meat consumption be reduced. Rather, they argue that supply of both

meat and grain for human consumption could increase if animals were fed forage, particularly processed forage, since forage can be grown on land not suitable for grain crops.

For cattlemen, a switch to processed forage feeding could substantially cut the current high cost of feeding grain to animals. For consumers, the move would mean little, if any, change in the taste of beef and could mean an improvement in nutritional standards. Forage-fed beef has lower saturated fat and higher vitamin A content.

The research results cited in the report demonstrate that appropriate grinding of grasses and legumes substantially enhances their value as feed rations. Ground forage has a much greater surface area, which allows it to be digested faster and more efficiently than its unprocessed equivalent. Weight gains of more than two pounds a day are clearly possible.

Government direction needed

Although forage production and feeding research indicates that it would be technically feasible, the study says a major conversion to forage feeding hinges on future market conditions and the direction of government policies.

Governments could enhance the move to substitution in a number of ways: by increasing support for agricultural research into forage production and feeding; by eliminating fat colour as a grade determinant for beef, a move which would end the current discrimination against the yellow fat produced by forage-fed beef; by removing any financial disincentives to the production of forage-fed animals.

Dawson City's Palace Grand still going strong

The Palace Grand Theatre in downtown Dawson in Canada's Yukon Territory is an exact copy of the original building opened by Arizona Charlie Meadows on a memorable July night in 1899. Charlie packed in 2,000 patrons that night and left 500 more clamouring outside.

For the next 60 years, the Grand was many things, including a community

centre and a religious meeting hall, but its audience was steadily diminishing. In 1961, it was evaluated, sketched, photographed and structurally memorized by the Federal Government's National Historic Sites Branch, torn down before it fell down and totally rebuilt right down to the kitchen chairs that served as seats in the days of Arizona Charlie.



Dawson City's Front Street was like a river of mud when the Yukon River

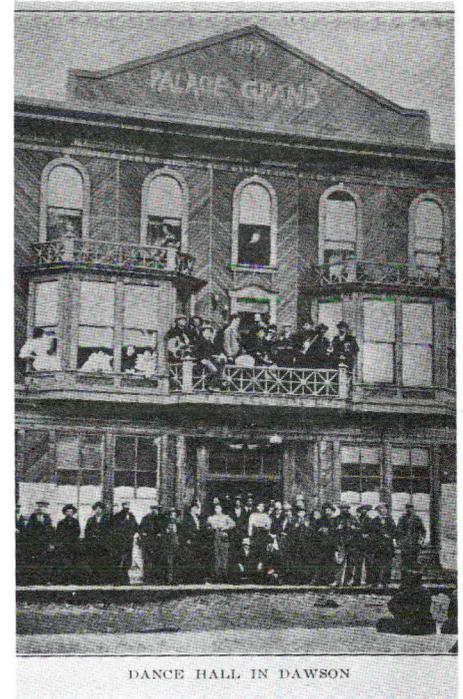
overflowed its banks in the spring breakup of 1898.

In 1962, the Palace re-opened in renewed grandeur with the Broadway musical *Foxy*, featuring the late Bert Lahr in the lead. The Dawson opening was the most distant "off Broadway" opening of any show in New York's theatrical history.

Dawson, the city that was born on golden dreams, now lives on the memories of those dreams that were actually realized. The Klondike gold rush was one of the international news stories of the nineteenth century and now, 75 years later, the gold fever has never cooled; the ghosts of the past are resurrected with every story, and every summer, from June to mid-September, vaudeville still lives at the Palace Grand.

The Fate of a Poor Miner's Daughter or *Shame on the Man Who Pursued Her*, produced by Yukon-born writer Meg Sutherland McCall, are two of the old-fashioned "meller dramers" presented. On alternate nights the New Dawson City Gaslight Follies feature an acceptable version of the *cancan*, crack traditionally awful jokes and entertain audiences with songs, piano, banjo and violin. The "old" theatre again sways to the strains of *Sweet Rosie O'Grady*, *Sidewalks of New York* and the violin solo and recitation, *The Touch of a Master's Hand*.

The curtain falls and the applause fades to a scraping and shifting of old-style straight-backed chairs as the patrons of the Palace Grand rise to leave. Most, if not all, will repair directly to Diamond Tooth Gertie's, Dawson's (and Canada's) only legal gambling casino.



DANCE HALL IN DAWSON

The Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson City was built in 1899 by Arizona Charlie Meadows, who went up the Chilkoot Pass with a portable bar and the idea that he would make a fortune from the miners, not the mines. He used lumber from two dismantled steamships to build the theatre. It was restored under the auspices of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

Public Archives of Canada photos.



The Hub saloon in Dawson City was typical of the saloons of the day.

Gurkhas train in Canada

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas, the famous Gurkha infantry unit based in England, is training in Canada at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, Alberta this summer. The 650-man battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rose, arrived at the beginning of August and will leave September 13.

The Gurkhas are camping out and training as an infantry battle group, said Major John Parkes, the regiment's second officer-in-command.

The regiment, also known as "The Sirmoor Rifles", consists of two battalions, the 1st stationed at Brunei, a Borneo protectorate, and the 2nd at Church Crookham, Hampshire, England.

The Sirmoor Rifles, the senior Gurkha regiment in British service, was raised in 1886 in the Himalayan country of Nepal, to serve in the East India Company. The regiment since has fought campaigns in India, France and Italy, as well as in the deserts of Mesopotamia and Africa, and the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Collective agreements

Collectively-bargained settlements during the second quarter of 1975 show a higher rate of wage increase than those of the first quarter, continuing the upward trend that had been evident throughout 1974, according to a report issued by the Canada Department of Labour. The 114 settlements during the second quarter produced average annual increases in base rates of 18.8 per cent in compound terms. The comparable figure for the first quarter of 1975 was 16.9 per cent.

The figures are based on an analysis

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of collective agreements covering 500 or more workers in industries (other than construction) within both the federal and provincial jurisdictions.

There were 43 settlements in the second quarter classified as one-year agreements, 62 classified as two-year agreements, and nine classified as three-year agreements.

While the 114 agreements settled in the second quarter provided for average annual increases in base rates equal to 18.8 per cent, in one-year agreements it was 24.5 per cent. In two-year agreements the annual average increase was 20.8 per cent for the first year and 10.8 per cent for the second year. In three-year agreements it was 19.5 per cent for the first year, 11.4 per cent for the second year and 2.5 per cent for the third year (of the nine settlements classified as three-year, one large settlement of a duration of 30 months did not have an increase in the last 6 months).

Of the 114 settlements during the second quarter of 1975, 48 provided for a cost-of-living allowance (COLA); the average annual increase in base rates for these settlements was 14.3 per cent (excluding the effect of the COLA clause). The remaining 66 settlements lacking a COLA clause, provided for an average annual increase in the base rates of 21.3 per cent.

Summary of last four quarters

During the 12-month period ending with the second quarter of 1975, there were 414 major collective agreements settled. These settlements provided for an average increase in base rates of 16.9 per cent.

Of the 414 settlements, 158 were classified as one-year agreements, 217 as two-year agreements and 38 as three-year agreements.

The 159 one-year agreements provided for an average annual increase in base rates of 19.0 per cent. The two-year agreements provided for increases of 21.3 per cent for the first year and 11.6 per cent for the second. The three-year agreements provided for increases of 16.5 per cent in the first year, 8.3 per cent in the second year and 4.0 per cent in the third year.

There were 171 settlements negotiated in the 12-month period ending with the second quarter, 1975, which provided for a COLA clause. These 171

settlements provided for 15.0 percent average annual increase in base rates (excluding the effect of the COLA clause), while the 243 settlements without a COLA clause provided for average annual increases of 18.6 per cent.

Cloud-seeding holds promise for forest-fire control

The possibility of inducing rain showers that could blanket a large forest fire with a million gallons of water in about 20 minutes (compared to the 800-gallon discharge of a water bomber) is under investigation by Environment Canada and the National Research Council in co-operation with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

On average, two million acres of forest are destroyed by fire each year in Canada — a costly destruction of one of the most important renewable resources.

Conventional methods of fighting forest fires — the air-borne water bomber together with ground-force techniques — are ineffective for many fires, particularly the very large ones.

Environment Canada announced that, in July, a two-week research project would be undertaken, within a 150-mile radius of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to study the physical processes involved in the formation of rain through cloud-seeding.

Two types of aircraft — a *Twin Otter* penetrates cumulus clouds to confirm the suitability of their structure, then a T-33 aircraft seeds cloud-tops with silver iodide. Observers in the *Twin Otter* monitor the physical changes produced by seeding and measure any rain that may have formed.

Serious consideration has been given to potentially undesirable environmental impacts arising from the use of this technique for fire-fighting. Scientists associated with the project have estimated that a successful cloud-seeding attempt would cover an area of about five square miles with about one tenth of an inch of rain — the equivalent of a summer rain shower — or 1.6 per cent of the total annual rainfall for Yellowknife. Up to 20 attempts at seeding were expected to be undertaken within the 90,000-square mile target area.