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# Canada Today

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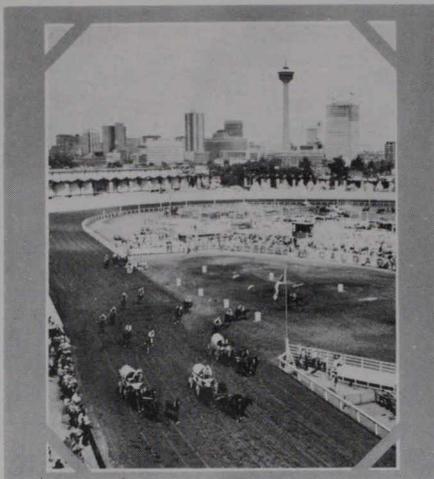
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Cover photo shows a typical scene at the annual Calgary Stampede held in early July.

# Canada Today



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# Conservation protects man's enemy

By Jenny Pearson

"Let it be" say the conservation posters, featuring among other threatened animals the magnificent polar bear, the darling of British zoo visitors — especially when it produces one of its irresistible young to swim and snuggle in the public view. "Aaaah!" we exclaim. But in the north of Canada this beautiful, shambling creature has a long tradition of enmity with man which is far from being a dead letter.

In the legends and hunting stories of the Eskimos the polar bear is the most monstrous of enemies. Though a valuable prize to those possessed of the skill to hunt him down, providing a mountain of meat and warm fur for clothing, the process of doing so with the harpoons of old could and often did take a high toll of lives. One bear might easily cost several men in the killing.

Today guns have made the hunting of polar bears a much less hazardous occupation and within the framework of international conservation, they are still hunted by Canada's native peoples. Oddly enough, the danger from polar bears has now shifted ground and the people most vulnerable to their capricious crunching of humans that cross their path are the whites who have come comparatively recently to live and work in the areas they inhabit.

## Danger town

In Churchill, Manitoba, for instance, the threat to human life is taken very seriously because this Hudson Bay seaport lies directly on the migration route between the Arctic ice floes which are the bears' winter hunting ground and the inland dens south of the port where they retire to hibernate before the ice moves out of the bay. There is a danger period each autumn when the bears emerge from their dens and wander back to the coast, finding miles of open water barring their way to the ice floes. Following their natural migration route northwards, the animals tend to wander into the outskirts of the town and scavenge around the rubbish dump. A number of residents have been mauled and six years ago a child was killed after stumbling into a reclining animal on a bush path.

At first the only solution was to shoot the marauding bears. Then in 1971 the International Fund for Animal Welfare started a programme to trap them and fly them out into the wilderness. Last year 11 bears were shot with tranquiliser guns, caged and flown out. If they got rumbustious

during the flight they were soothed with peace-offerings of doughnuts. The only untoward incident was a ripped pocket of an airline employee who got too close to a cage during loading. A further eight potentially dangerous bears had to be shot dead. An incinerator in place of the old garbage dump has also helped.

## Bears come back

Trouble arises from the fact that polar bears are not so anxious to avoid humans as humans are to avoid them. After unloading from the aeroplanes, some have to be encouraged on their way into the wilderness with a blast from a flare gun. Some seem actually to prefer to hang around the bright lights of Churchill and return there after deportation. A mother bear and two cubs deposited 300 miles away padded their way back to the town in 18 days.

Since the tricky relationship between people and bears around Churchill looks like being a continuing problem, conservation officers there frequently lecture school children and adults about how to live with the animals. The basic message seems to be to play it safe, staying away from rocks and bushes where bears are likely to be hidden and not to go wandering around in the dark. As one conservation officer remarked, "Polar bears are certainly one of Manitoba's finest natural resources but also the hardest to manage."

The special problem of bears attracted by the human environment was underlined in January by a terrible incident in which an 18-year-old oil worker was killed by a polar bear at a Mackenzie Delta oil rig 100 miles north of Inuvik. When eventually the bear was shot it was found to have three metal tags attached to it, indicating that it had been tranquilised and removed from civilisation at least three times.

## Fearless animal

Another worker in the camp who asked not to be identified told the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto that the camp was not equipped with a rifle, even though polar bears were known to frequent the area around it. The only weapon available to the men was a flare pistol, but although they fired a flare at the animal and drove bulldozers at it, it held on to remains of the dead man and showed little fear of these activities.

The victim was attacked as he walked

from his work station to the men's living quarters on the barge. When he did not arrive at the living quarters, a search party found the head and clothing of the man before locating the bear, still clutching the remains, 300 yards from the camp.

Northwest Territories law forbids anyone but natives to kill a polar bear. When the Royal Canadian Mounted Police flew to the scene from Inuvik, they brought with them a native who then shot the animal. Before that, a native worker failed to shoot it with a faulty war surplus rifle brought from another camp.

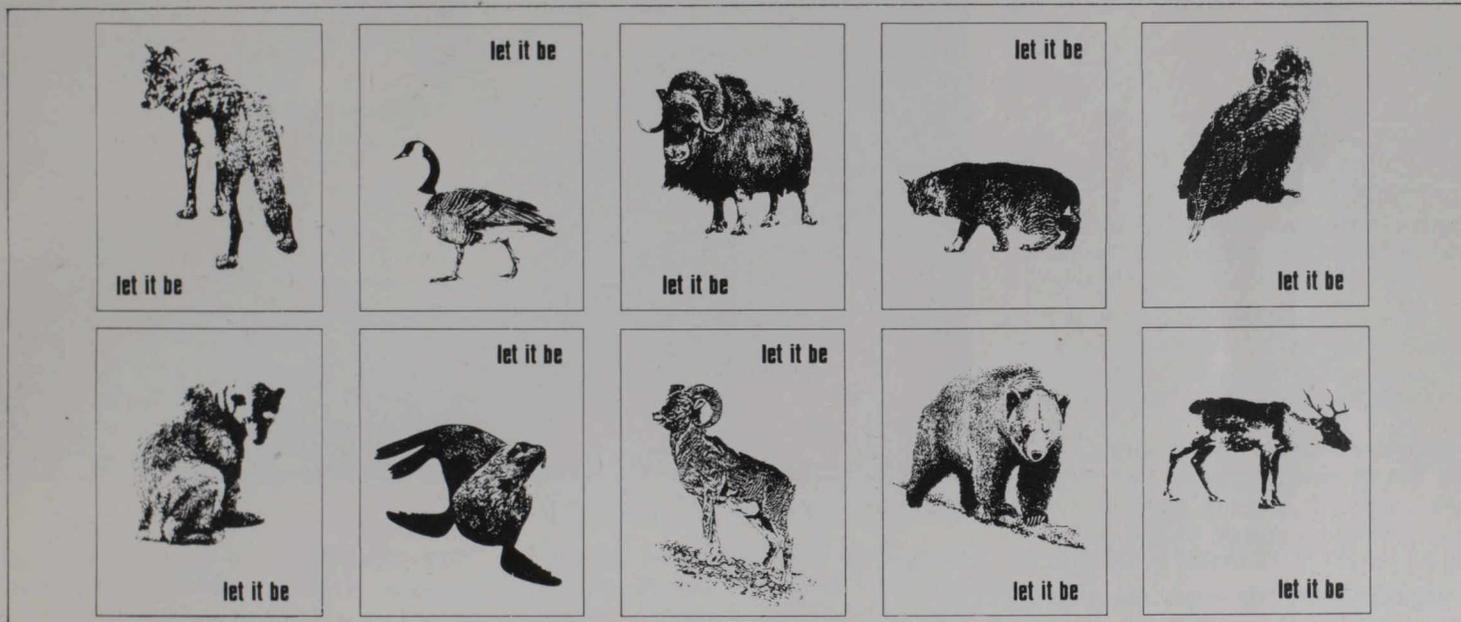
The laws based on conservation were thus rigorously and surprisingly upheld.

Yet the appalling story suggests that the case for conservation of humans in Arctic regions also deserves attention. There should surely be a better procedure for forewarning and forearming. This same bear was seen garbage hunting by oil workers at a nearby camp several days before the attack, but it was not reported either to the oil company concerned or to the RCMP.

The polar bear population of Canada is not, in fact, considered to be seriously endangered as are those in other Arctic countries, a factor recognised in an International Agreement for the Conservation of Polar Bears which provides for better collaboration among Arctic nations

in research and management of these animals. Signed by Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United States and Russia, the agreement makes special recognition of traditional native hunting rights in Canada.

Eskimo and Indian settlements are allotted a maximum annual kill quota. A settlement which does not want to use its whole quota can sell a polar bear permit from its quota to non-native hunters, but the hunts must be carried out with a native guide using dog teams and traditional methods. ♦



# Businessmen learn from forces

By J. M. Greene

Canadian businessmen are beginning to discover that the armed forces are way ahead of them in leadership education — so much so that leading industrial firms have been sending their young executives on the intensive one-year training course run by the National Defence College at Kingston. Among the firms that have used this course in recent years are Bell Canada, Du Pont, CIL, IBM Canada, Canadian National, and United Aircraft of Canada.

The development springs from a growing realisation that managerial techniques learnt within business are not in themselves enough to make for good management. In the words of Don McGaskill, a lecturer in business at York University and President of Connaught Laboratories, "A good manager cannot be good without being a leader as well. If you are managing people, you must be a leader."

In a programme on "Leadership" shown on Canadian Television, McGaskill gave the opinion that many business leaders hide in the corner too much. They aren't visible and don't communicate with their employees and tell them what is going on with the result that "there has too often been loyalty to companies rather than loyalty to individuals — loyalty from the boss to the employees and from the employees to the boss."

He believes that giving employees rank rather than title might be productive. What would be wrong with management walking out into the plant and inviting employees to get together and elect a new foreman? "They might know more about who is qualified than we do."

So far business has concentrated on refining its leadership into a science of management — to find systems that will

avoid the fatal mistake. For business has this vulnerability, compared with other units of society: "A single mistake or miscalculation and the whole company could disappear along with the investments of shareholders and the jobs of hundreds of employees."

But, says McGaskill, something is lost in this process. Business has put the emphasis on managerial skills and just hoped that leadership qualities would emerge by themselves — thus creating a vacuum into which the unions move.

Researchers working for the television programme on "Leadership" found that the unions as well as the Armed Forces were ahead of business in the development of leadership qualities. Jerry Lawton, producer-director of the programme, commented: "The unions sometimes take over the roles abdicated by business. The

United Automobile Worker, for example, runs a school for rank and file members through which the union is interested in producing more than union leaders. It's citizenship, the members will tell you — the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen. They want to produce future mayors, future Members of Parliament, and the approach and results are not unlike those of the forces: to teach people how the system works and to build confidence."

The theory behind the Armed Forces leadership manual, upon which the one-year course at Kingston is broadly based, is that we are motivated by an ascending scale of needs. These are listed as physical needs, safety needs, self-esteem needs and self-fulfilment needs. As each need is satisfied, it can no longer motivate. You don't encourage a man with a full stomach by offering him another dinner. The satisfaction of physical and safety needs will not make a man happy: it will only keep him from being unhappy. Only motivation through the needs of self-esteem and self-fulfilment will produce happiness.

### Confident corporals

In today's Armed Forces authoritarianism has become a thing of the past: the new leadership training manual is now acknowledged as one of the best textbooks on the subject of leadership in the country.

General J. A. Dextraze, chief of the defence staff, explains "Under our leadership programme all ranks from corporal to general are exposed to the same fundamentals of leadership. Even corporals take 15 hours of lectures on behavioural psychology, motivational theory, communications theory, personnel counselling, etc. Confidence is built by making them stand up and speak for themselves."

The National Defence College has for some years been running a top course for people marked for senior rank and it is this course that has attracted the young business executives — indeed, the proportion of non-military to military candidates has now risen to 50 per cent. General Edwards, the commandant, says the 47-week course is a "look inside Canada at all aspects of life — the totality of Canada, if you will — and a look from the outside in." Those attending the course make extensive field trips to South America, Europe and the Arctic. It is free, including all transportation abroad, since that is done in Armed Forces aircraft. Of the civilians attending the course, many are government officials from Canada and abroad, academics and representatives of foreign governments, as well as young business executives.

One businessman who took the course 10 years ago is Harry Pilkington, now vice-president, personnel, of Bell Canada. He is full of praise for it. At first, he recalls, he wondered whether any of the material had any relationship to business; but afterwards "you realise what a superb all-round education it is."

# Submarines extend underwater research



Submersible 'Pisces' III by HYCO of Vancouver.

During the war they were known as "midget submarines" and their function was to infiltrate enemy harbours and sink ships. Today these tiny underwater craft have been developed for research purposes and big advances have been made over the past eight years by two Canadian firms, International Hydrodynamics of Vancouver (known as HYCO) and Arctic Marine.

The latest models pioneered in their workshops, the Pisces and Sea Otter, resemble large mechanical fish. One fifth of the size of the smallest whale, these craft are capable of manoeuvring and performing complex tasks as deep as 6,200 feet below the surface.

To emphasise the peaceful and scientific uses for which they are designed, the term "submarine" has been dropped and they are now known as "submersibles." Since 1968, Pisces submersibles have been used for exploration and study of the sea bed under Arctic ice. They are used for tasks as varied as laying and inspecting submarine cables, mineral and oil prospecting, salvage operations and the study of problems caused by pollution of the oceans. Their work is done with the aid of manipulators, corers and other detachable equipment mounted on the hull. The submersible's interior is more like that of a space capsule than a conventional submarine.

The new generation of manned submersibles in fact perform the same kind of tasks as frogmen, but at much greater depths and with increased power and versatility. The most recent models have a lock-out compartment for divers which

they can also use as a work platform. The smallest model measures slightly over 13 feet in length and weighs three and a half tons. It is propelled by an electric motor which permits dives of five to 12 hours duration. In addition to its ballast, this submersible can carry a maximum crew of three and a 200-pound payload.



Engine room like the interior of a space capsule.

Photo: Information Canada Photothèque

Photo: Information Canada Photothèque

# Cheques may be abolished

By Anthea Linacre

A scheme is being considered in Canada for a computer system which would eliminate paper cheques.

A bold venture since Canadians write more cheques per person than any other country in the world except for the United States.

Nevertheless the government has recently announced plans for merging cheque cashing and credit card systems, thus eliminating a need for many cash transactions.

The concept of a 'cashless society' is not new, but Canada is one of the first countries seriously to consider implementing such an ambitious scheme.

Already a government committee has spent two years investigating the use of computers for paying bills, and has just published a 25-page paper called 'Towards an Electronic Payments System.'

Broadly the idea is for a communications system which banks, trust companies, and credit unions would use jointly.

Under the current cheque-clearing system, cheques are mailed to an individual's branch and in the last ten years the number has doubled to 1.5 billion dollar's worth.

A computer payments system would eliminate the transferring of this massive amount of paper, and would hopefully be used for several types of transaction.

## Shops linked to banks

It would, for instance, be possible for stores to have machines connected to bank computers so that purchases could be deducted automatically from an individual's chequing account.

This would be achieved by feeding the consumer's payment or credit card into 'credit authorisation' and 'point of sale terminals.'

Similarly the computers could be programmed to deduct automatically standard bills such as monthly mortgage payments.

Working the other way on, they could also accept payments into an individual's account such as his wage, family allowance or old age pension which would be deposited electronically into his bank account.

By doing this the government hopes to forestall the chaos which threatens due to the proliferation of electronics systems by various chartered banks; special arrange-

ments between some banks and some credit card companies and major retail chains; and the control of the hardware end of the different systems by foreign-owned computer companies.

The idea is to develop a single system which would be Canadian-controlled and would protect the interests of the smaller computer companies, financial institutions and merchants — and, ultimately, the consumer.

## Do people want this?

The new government committee will adopt uniform specifications so computers can communicate with each other. And existing communications carriers such as local telephone companies and CNGP Telecommunications would handle the transfer of data from computer to computer.

Although this makes sense as far as it goes, it has already been pointed out that some fundamental considerations do seem to have been overlooked.

Firstly, does the country really want an electronic payments system, Government-orchestrated or otherwise? Is it socially desirable to replace cash with cards made of plastic? Although officials say the electronic system would do away with cash, there would be little incentive for merchants to accept, or for consumers to carry cash once they were all tied into a computer system.

The housewife who knows she has only a certain number of dollars in her purse is apt to shop more carefully than one who knows it doesn't much matter if she exceeds her budget because her plastic card will get her past the checkout counter.

Then, too, computers — or the people who run them — have been known to make horrendous errors.

Possibly, though, the most worrying aspect of such a scheme would be the difficulty of protecting the individual's right to privacy. As it stands at the moment the Government paper touches only in passing on the vital need to prevent unauthorised access to information on a person's credit status.

## Discussion points

But then can a single nation-wide system function without a pooling of credit information? And would this mean

that someone who had a legitimate dispute with a department store in Toronto would be unable to buy a meal in Vancouver?

All these points and more are already being heatedly discussed.

At a Canadian Bankers' Association conference on the payments system, the president, Mr. J. Allan Boyle, claimed that some of the assumptions in the paper had been made without adequate information from bankers and other private groups.

He felt that cheques were still meeting the needs of the public and would go on doing so for many years to come.

"Therefore the criteria for future improvement should be set by the users and will depend upon what they want to have and how much they are willing to pay for it."

## Bankers' reservations

Finally Mr. Boyle said the federal paper raised major questions of privacy as to whether a new system would be able to prevent unauthorised access to confidential information concerning an individual's credit.

Banking sources in England greeted the Canadian scheme with similar reservations.

Although such a scheme has been looked into here it has been rejected on the grounds that there seemed no way to safeguard complete protection of an individual's confidential credit rating.

"In England we are particularly proud of the security we offer individuals over their financial standing. And since the cheque system works so well there doesn't really seem any urgent need to change it," said one banker.

Britain, however, has taken a number of steps towards eradicating the use of paper in banking.

In the direct debit system, for example, the transfer of money is largely done by means of transferring magnetic tape which excludes paper.

And magnetic tape is also used to facilitate the freeflow of credits throughout the country, although there is still a considerable amount of paper used in the credit clearing system.

"We are constantly revising the technological facilities within the framework but in this instance one has to ask would you just be replacing paper with plastic?"

# Phone sells over counter

Experiments in a new approach to selling the telephone service, in which customers can buy a telephone in a shop and connect it themselves to prewired houses and apartments, are meeting with considerable success in some parts of Canada.

The idea of a "phone store" system — to by-pass labour costs involved in the conventional system of service calls to install telephones at the customer's request — has been talked about since the 1960s. Last April the British Columbia Telephone Company opened a phone store in West Vancouver, in an area of high-rise apartments with a high population of mobile young people living in them.

They first converted 22,600 housing units to plug-in phone outlets with an average of three outlets per unit. Then they opened the store and awaited results. Business has varied between 50 and 300 customers per month and is being watched carefully so that trends can be established before a decision is made on extending the service.

Under the new system, houses and apartments are prewired for a telephone, with outlet jacks in several rooms. Once done, this remains a permanent fixture of

the house. The occupant is under no obligation to have a telephone or pay any rental. If he wants to be on the phone, he goes along to the store to choose a telephone and sign on for the service. He can then take his telephone home and plug in, moving it around the different rooms as required.

When the telephone bill comes in there is one major difference from the normal service. No extra charge is made for having more than one place to plug in. The outlet jacks used on the new system are mechanically different from the extension phone jack in common use (for which subscribers are charged extra).

Trials of the new system are also being run in the Kingsland area of Calgary, Alberta, and in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Bell Canada have been setting up trial systems in Guelph, Ontario and in Longueuil and Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The first do-it-yourself phone system was put into operation by an American Telephone and Telegraph Company (Bell system) subsidiary four years ago in a high-rise apartment complex in Florida. It was a success; people did go shopping

for telephones.

Another experiment to test reactions of people living in a community with different types of neighbourhoods was conducted by the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation of Los Angeles at Marina Del Rey, beginning in June 1973. The installers had some difficulty in making contact with householders to gain admission and install their plug-in outlets. But almost 90 per cent of customers requiring new installations or moving had come to the store. Of those having problems with their phones, 48 per cent came in.

Don Schumacher, director of marketing for the company, reckons that these encouraging results are due to the convenience of a phone store. Subscribers don't have to make an appointment and wait in for the telephone installer to arrive. They can stop in at the store when they happen to be out shopping. It is to the company's advantage that the customer can see all its products and try them out before deciding what to have. One significant development was that sales for pushbutton phones increased by 16 per cent.

## Agriculture:

# Research extends northern farming

While some of Canada's best agricultural land in the south disappears each year under the concrete of urban sprawl, researchers are working to push the farming frontiers northwards into areas not previously considered very suitable for growing crops.

The Federal Government has an agricultural research station at Beaverlodge, Alberta, 270 miles northwest of Edmonton near the British Columbia border, which is the hub of a northern research group. Attached to it are two experimental farms at Fort William, Alberta (340 miles north of Edmonton) and Prince George, British Columbia. It is also responsible for studies of farming in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, where the main problem is the short frost-free growing season.

Research in the far northern areas has been limited because the need is not critical at this stage, but there are now about five million acres in agricultural

production in northwest Alberta and northeastern British Columbia. Dr. Lloyd Spanglo, director of the research station, says there is a potential of 14 million acres more. "This is exciting and presents a challenge to our scientists in evolving ways to use the land to best advantage."

One problem in getting agriculture underway in the Peace River area where the station is situated lies in the attitude still prevalent among most Canadians who persistently regard the area as "far North." Dr. Spanglo says, "There is a general acceptance that the Peace River region is the end of civilisation and we've even had people ask if we close the research station during the winter."

In fact, though they have a short growing season, the climate during that season is generally warmer than Edmonton. Most research at the station is concerned with the interaction between crops and the environment — that is, the climate and soil.

Because of the short season, farmers in this area must be quick off the mark with seeding in the spring or their crops won't ripen in time and they will get caught by the onset of winter. But Dr. Spanglo's colleagues in the south dispute his argument that it is much easier to manage a farm in Ontario because there, they say, all sorts of other factors enter in. "Here if it is Saturday and the fishing is good you don't have a choice — the seeding must be done!" Dr. Spanglo explains.

The area is good for forage and grass production and rape seed has proved a good crop in recent years. When the land was first settled in the 1930s by wheat-oriented farmers from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, they did not do so well. Today, as the first-generation farmers are being replaced by younger successors, wheat is gradually giving way to crops more suited to the region.



A Mountie on patrol checks back to the information centre by radio.

# Mounties go electric

By Philip Smith

Perhaps it was the sixth sense good policemen are supposed to have, but there was something about the car parked on the side road that didn't look quite right to Lionel Ellis, an Ontario Provincial Police constable on patrol near Matheson, in Northern Ontario.

First of all, the way it was tucked among the trees you could hardly see it from the highway, as if its driver, now sleeping soundly behind the wheel, had tried to hide it. While there are plenty of American hunters around Matheson in the moose season — it was November, 1972 — they don't usually travel alone. This car had California plates. California seemed a long way from Matheson, even for a moose-hunter.

Here, thought Ellis, was a good opportunity to check out that new CPIC system they were running in Ottawa. He radioed the car's licence number into his detachment — and almost within seconds, back came the news that the car had been stolen from Riverside, California. The man presumed to be driving it had a long police record and was currently wanted for murder. Forewarned is fore-armed, and Ellis waited for another car to join him before he woke the driver and arrested

him. Just five minutes had elapsed since he had become suspicious and queried CPIC — and once again, the computer had got its man: returned to California, he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The computer is the heart of CPIC — the Canadian Police Information Centre — a nation-wide automated communications system set up by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police two years ago. Plugged into it by almost 700 terminals from Whitehorse to Labrador City, police forces across the country now have at their fingertips — in as little as 10 seconds — information for which they used to have to wait hours, or days.

## Quick answers

Storing up or giving out crime information at the rate of 120 words a second, the computer handles 230,000 queries a week from police forces on the network — the provincial police in Ontario and Quebec, RCMP detachments in the other provinces, and all major city police forces. From the recesses of its capacious memory it can give the cop on the beat answers to questions there was no point even asking

before.

The Mounties established a central repository for police information in Ottawa in 1910. By 1963 its files were bulging so badly that searching them could take days. Since it's no use asking a policeman to chase a dragster in a Model-T Ford, a study team was set up to revamp the system.

In the space age, the obvious solution was a computer and the model chosen was the IBM 360/65, as used by businesses and universities. To man it, the Mounties raided the computer establishment: two-thirds of the CPIC staff of 255 are civilians sworn into the force for the job.

It was decided to launch the system by programming all existing records on stolen vehicles into the computer, and after policemen had been trained to operate the typewriter-like terminals, the system went "on line" at noon on July 1, 1972.

An hour and a half later, an Ontario Provincial Police patrolman at Burlington found a burned-out and abandoned truck. Its licence number was punched into the computer from the station and it was quickly identified as having been stolen from Hagersville, 30 miles away. While

there was no arrest, at least there was no more need to mount a search for the truck. That was "Hit" No. 1.

Next day, there was a more impressive demonstration of the system's value. The driver of a car which caused an accident at Oakville leaped out and fled, but a witness was able to describe him to police: A check of the computer proved "negative" — the car was not entered as stolen.

Later that day, a man reported to Hamilton city police that someone had stolen his car. Hamilton entered its licence number in the records by feeding it into the computer. And immediately the computer "recalled" that Oakville police had been asking about that same car four hours earlier.

The Hamilton policeman called Oakville — each computer response ends by ordering the recipient to check with the originator of the record — and as he noted down the description of the driver who had left the scene he realised it fitted the car owner, who was still standing at his desk. Faced with this fact under questioning, the man admitted his guilt.

### Built-in "memory"

This "no-hit" feature of the computer, a built-in "memory" for unproductive inquiries which lasts 72 hours is invaluable in police work. In October, 1972, an RCMP patrolman near Regina became suspicious of a truck he was following. He stopped it but everything seemed to be in order and so, in the time-honoured police phrase, "the vehicle was allowed to proceed."

Nevertheless, the patrolman remained suspicious and radioed in to his detachment. The computer was queried and the answer was "negative." But a few minutes later the Regina city police entered the truck as stolen. The computer promptly followed up on its first response to the RCMP and the patrolman was contacted by radio so quickly that he could still see the truck ahead of him on the highway. He arrested its occupants and they eventually confessed to more than 20 break-ins.

As the system demonstrated its usefulness and more forces began to take advantage of it, a second category of information was added to the computer: the names of all those people "wanted or missing" — those for whom a warrant has been issued; those charged with an offence under the criminal code; those out on bail or parole; and those reported missing by relatives or others.

Once again, the value of the new investigational tool was obvious. In September last year, for instance, an OPP constable patrolling Highway 401 near Whitby, east of Toronto, spotted a man drinking beer while driving. He pulled him over and as a routine precaution radioed his name to the officer manning the computer terminal.

The car had Arizona licence plates, and while there is no link between the CPIC



The disc storage unit houses the police operational data, which can be retrieved at the rate of 200,000 characters a second.

computer and its FBI counterpart, the RCMP does have a terminal by which it can request information from the FBI centre in Washington. The man's name was punched into the terminal — and it was found he was wanted for armed robbery in Detroit and Phoenix, Arizona.

The patrolman searched his car and found a loaded revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition. And instead of a mundane offence under the liquor control act the man was charged with possession of a restricted weapon and held for extradition to the US.

### Complex inquiries

As CPIC celebrated its second anniversary last July, it had 333,000 "wanted or missing" persons on the computer and 110,000 "stolen vehicles" — a wide category that embraces not only cars, trucks and motor-cycles but stolen licence plates, validation tags, golf carts and even three aircraft. And since it went on line the computer had handled 8.7 million "transactions" in the "wanted or missing" category and 5.5 million inquiries about stolen vehicles.

Some of these inquiries can be complex. For instance, if you see a couple of holdup men escaping in a car but only catch part of its licence number — say the first and last digits — the computer can quickly produce for police a "print-out" of any or all stolen cars which have those digits in those places. If a police station in Quebec punches an inquiry into the computer in French, it will reply in French, even if the

requested report originated in English from a force in Alberta.

Police are clearly enthusiastic about the new system, but it is too early yet for national statistics to have been prepared to prove its effectiveness — though Statistics Canada has just such a study under way.

### "Big Brother" worry

"I'm confident that the next print-out of Statistics Canada will show a marked increase in the recovery rate of stolen vehicles," says RCMP Assistant Commissioner A. C. Potter, CPIC director.

The experience of Penticton would appear to be typical. Within 30 days of a CPIC terminal being installed there in January last year, the police had scored 18 "hits" in the "wanted or missing" category, which resulted in 13 "apprehensions," eight of them arrests. Three stolen cars and a snowmobile were recovered with the help of the computer. Twelve arrests were made at other places as a result of information punched into the system by Penticton police.

The computer as an all-seeing and vindictive "Big Brother" is an image that bothers many, and Assistant Commissioner Potter admits he has had "queries" from civil rights groups about the CPIC system. "But the computer doesn't change anything," he says. "It just makes it quicker for police to get access to records that already exist in some police station somewhere. And if the computer says Philip Smith is wanted, the policeman on the spot still has to make sure you are



the Philip Smith wanted. The computer doesn't relieve the policeman of the responsibilities he's always had.

"To me it reflects a lack of understanding of this system and computers generally that these criticisms are being made. This is an in-house system between police forces and the information on the computer is not being disseminated to the public at large."

CPIC is a private, "dedicated" system, which means that the computer is not

shared with anyone else. And according to officials of CN/CP Telecommunications, which installed it, it is burglar-proof. "An unauthorised terminal couldn't even develop a hand-shaking arrangement with the computer," one of them told me. Also, the information entered into the computer must follow a set pattern or the computer will reject it. And each force with access of a terminal must adhere to strict rules. For instance, there must be a numbered "case file" opened for anyone entered as "wanted" — and a warrant must have been issued for his arrest. In addition, each case must be followed through and "dead" information — if a wanted man is arrested, for example — must be removed from the computer right away: there are an average of 44,000 "transactions" cancelling or updating information every week.

To ensure the accuracy of the computer record, each force with a terminal is sent a monthly list of its entries which it must "validate" by checking against its own files. And the RCMP or such provincial authorities as the Ontario Police Commission carry out continual surprise "audits" to make sure the information on the computer conforms with the case files in police stations.

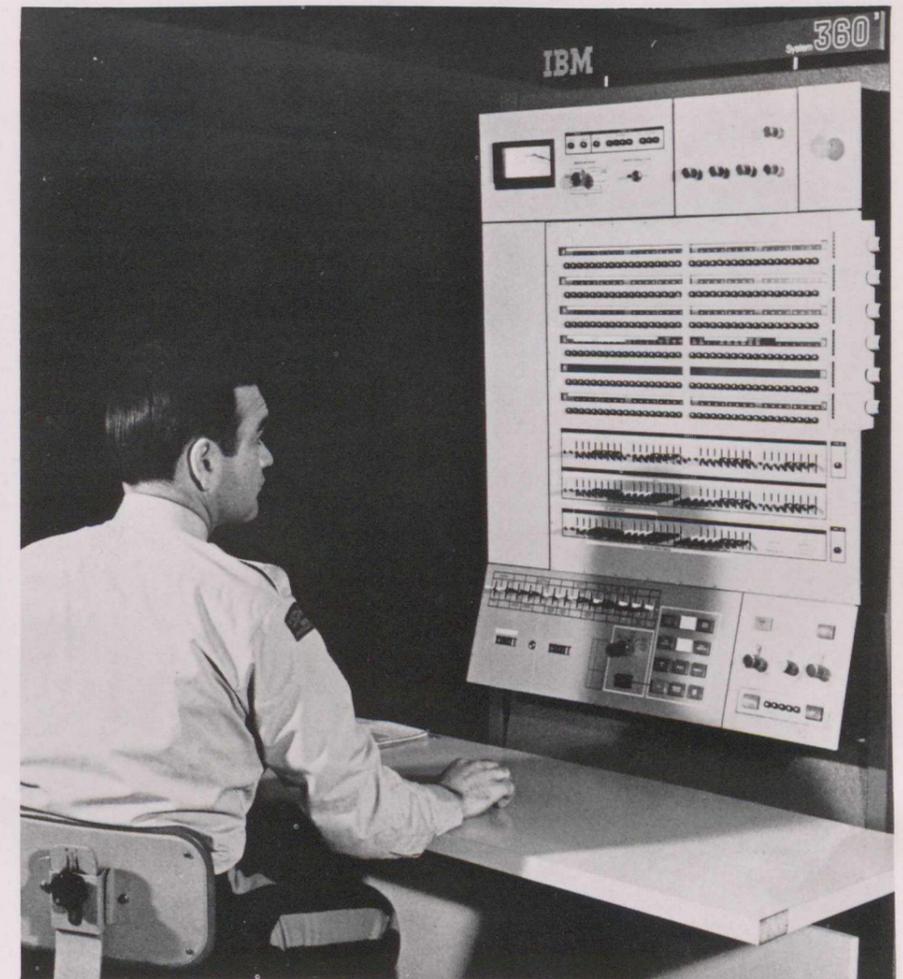
One of the complaints about the proliferation of computer dossiers is that you never know if your name is on one — and you can never check the information filed about you. Potter chuckled when I mentioned this. "We'd be grateful if a man came in here to see his record," he

said, "because he wouldn't be, on there unless he was wanted for something." (The owner's name is not part of the information filed when a vehicle is stolen.)

Potter conceded that there might be more protests about the latest phase of the CPIC system: the filing of the criminal histories of anyone convicted of an indictable offence. As CPIC entered its third year of operation, much concerned discussion was going on in police circles about the nature and extent of the information to be filed in this category, due to be introduced some time this fall. "But this will still be merely an investigational aid," Potter says. "The police will still have to rely on fingerprints for identification — and no one who hasn't been fingerprinted will be on there. If you doubt the accuracy of this system, then you have to doubt the accuracy of the whole police and court system.

"There's no danger in the retention of information; the only danger would be in its dissemination. And our system is more secure than the old one, in which we used the normal surface mail. What we are, really, is one great big filing cabinet for police forces across Canada." ♦

LEFT: A communications officer inserts a portable disc pack in the storage unit. Each pack stores 28m. characters of information. BELOW: Through the terminal in his own office the policeman has direct access to the central computer.



## Urban Profile: Calgary

# Canada's got a cowtown too!

By Alan Harvey

For most people, the history of the Wild West is America's history, a romantic cowboys-and-Indians saga written in dust and feathers on a baldheaded prairie. As portrayed by Hollywood and television, it all happened south of the Canadian border: everyone knows Matt Dillon and Wyatt Earp, the sheriff's lonely walk in High Noon, the saloon brawls, the covered wagons, the war-whooping redskins massing for a final assault on the white man's covered wagon.

But what happened north of the border? How come no handsome heroes riding out of the Canadian twilight to save the homestead at the last ticking second? There were of course the Mounties, immortalised by Nelson Eddy and Jeannette Macdonald in "Rose Marie," but not much else on the silver screen. Yet there was a distinctive Canadian story; equally as fascinating as America's, though a little less bloodcurdling thanks to the Mounties. They preceded the settlers into Canada's western and northern territories, and imposed a framework of British-style justice on the clash between a primitive Indian plains culture and the importunate colonialism of the European white man.

Anyone looking for a Hollywood-style scenario in Canada might well begin in Calgary. Perhaps more than any other Canadian city, Calgary retains a whiff of the Old West. It recalls the roistering days when gunslingers and cowpokes, whisky traders and half-breeds, scarlet-coated Mounties and Blackfoot Indians, adventurers and remittance men, Highland Scots, Orkneymen and nobly-bred English cattle ranchers jostled in the struggle for Canada's Last Frontier.

Two hundred years ago, no white man had ever set eyes on the place. One hundred years ago it was a strip of uninhabited ground straddling two brisk mountain rivers. Today it's a major city in Canada, a sophisticated modern metropolis brashly proud of its frontier past.

### Sandstone skyscrapers

From zero population to just under half a million in 100 years — that's the swift pace set by Calgary, one of Canada's fastest growing cities, a breezy, high-

spirited community in the province of Alberta whose sandstone skyscrapers soar out of grassy foothills beneath the snow-capped Rocky Mountains. It is almost three-quarters of a mile above sea level (exact elevation 3,439 feet) and Calgarians like to say with pardonable hyperbole that they are "nearer Heaven than any other city in Canada." From their westward-looking windows, citizens can almost reach out an arm and pluck off a chunk of mountain rock — though the majestic Rockies are in fact some 50 miles away.

It has other claims to fame. By common consent, Calgary is today the oil capital of Canada. Every big oil company in the world has offices here; more than half the city's 436,000 population is involved in oil or associated industries. Today the oilmen and their families are experiencing what they hope will be a fleeting setback resulting from disagreements between federal and provincial governments which are holding up investment.

But the city goes on growing. And this is a special year that may help to ease any disgruntlement — Calgary's 100th birthday. It is exactly a century since some 275 men in scarlet tunics rode out of Fort Dufferin



Photo: N.F.B.

in Manitoba and across the western plains to plant a fort where the flat country ends and the foothills begin. The red-coated riders formed F Troop of the North West Mounted Police, the force that was to become known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or more popularly The Mounties.

The North West Mounted Police had been organised in 1873, just six years after the passing in 1867 of the British North America Act which made Canada a nation. Queen Victoria sat supremely on England's throne and London was the de facto capital of the world. From the Hudson's Bay Company in London, the new federal government in Ottawa received title to the vast lands stretching from the Red River Valley in Manitoba west to the Rocky Mountains and north from the US border to the Arctic archipelago.

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#### Calgary has produced plenty of rugged individualists.

One of the most distinctive was a tart-tongued pig farmer from Ireland named Mother Fulham, who arrived in Calgary in 1889 and made things hum. Driving her buggy around Calgary collecting scraps for her swine from hotels and restaurants, she would exchange insults with pedestrians. "Hurrah for Ireland," jeered the onlookers, and Mother Fulham would reply: "Ye'd like to be Irish, too, ye pur fool!" She had a certain insouciance about cleanliness. *The Calgary Herald* recalls how she gulled a visiting doctor who was surprised at the dirt on her injured ankle. "I'll bet a dollar there's not another leg in Calgary as dirty as that one!" exclaimed the doctor. "I'll take that bet," said Mother Fulham, unpeeling her other stocking to disclose an even dirtier limb. She won her bet. Mother Fulham fought a one-woman war against the respectable citizens of Calgary, abetted occasionally by a fellow Irishman from Limerick, Paddy Nolan. He has been affectionately described as "the wittiest criminal lawyer in Alberta, maybe in Canadian history."

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So it was that F Troop of the North West Mounted, a handful of men under command of Inspector A. E. Brisebois, set out to carry Canada's writ into a lawless land. They set out for the Whoop-Up Trail, studded with forts picturesquely called Robber's Roost, Standoff and Slideout, and set up a post at the confluence of the Elbow and Bow rivers, where the plains end and the foothills of the Rockies begin. The inspector christened it Brisebois; weeks later he was overruled and the tiny settlement, all waving grassland and small lakes, was called Fort Calgary. The name was chosen by NWMP Assistant Commissioner Colonel J. F. Macleod and derived from Macleod's connections with his ancestral isles in Scotland, either

Calligarry on the Isle of Skye or Calgary House on Mull. Macleod understood the name to mean clear running water.

### Dinner-jacketed cowboys

Calgary's early history owes much to the Métis, the breed resulting from a fusion of the blood of Highland Scots, French-Canadians and Indians. The new settlement was surrounded by excellent cattle country, and Calgary soon hit its share of ranch homes occupied by well-bred Englishmen attuned to a tradition of dressing for dinner, participating in hunting excursions and playing polo. According to report, it was not unusual for a cowboy to ride into town with a dinner jacket on the horse's flanks, ready to change clothes in a blacksmith's shanty or a stable.

It is this swashbuckling past which gives Calgary its special mystique, and imparts a tang and a cachet to this year's centennial celebrations. They began on New Year's Eve with a huge birthday cake and a synchronised flashing of city lights, and will gain momentum with huge parades and the annual Calgary Stampede in early July. The climax is set for December when Canada's national football masterpiece, the Grey Cup Final, will be played in Calgary for the first time.

The Grey Cup is one of Canada's great occasions, and Calgary did much to make it so. It turned the final into a Canadian institution. The breakthrough came in 1948 when a team called Calgary Stampeders came east to Toronto to challenge the Ottawa Rough Riders, champions of Eastern Canada, in the annual championship match.

It wasn't just a football game — Calgary imported into the gridiron battle all the spirit and razzmatazz that characterises the frontier city. A train with 13 cars attached rolled into staid old Toronto, bringing 250 cheering fans in Stetson hats, a cowboy band and other symbols of prairie ebullience. The Stampeders took over a bug-eyed city. There were square dances in the streets, cowboy demonstrations, flapjacks served from chuck-wagons. It was a revelation for good grey Toronto, a city long derided for decorum if not dullness.

### Famous extravaganza

In recalling its rowdy, sometimes culpable past, Calgary shows a greater sensitivity than most Canadian cities. Perhaps the biggest single factor in jogging its memory is the world renowned Calgary Stampede, an annual carnival started in 1912 and described as the biggest Wild West extravaganza in the world. It's a unique occasion, involving huge parades, chuck-wagon races, bucking broncos and innumerable sideshows. Over the years it has drawn such guests as Queen (then Princess) Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, Gracie Fields, Walt Disney, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope and many others. It is the biggest outdoor show on earth, the leading

Western attraction on the North American continent.

So integral a part of Calgary's life has the Stampede become that the city's two newspapers — *The Herald* and *The Albertan* — think nothing of moving their city rooms to the Stampede headquarters during the 10-day show. And Calgary still has its cowboy aristocracy, not noticeably over-awed by the new-rich oilmen. Calgary newspapermen who have worked in Britain sometimes see these aristocrats of the saddle as occupying the same status in relation to oil money as Britain's property millionaires do to the landed gentry.

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#### A city that thrives on the unexpected, Calgary can point to a weather wrinkle unique to itself.

It's called the Chinook Arch and it takes the form of a dazzlingly clear strip of sky, suddenly interposing itself between mountain top and overhanging cloud. It is formed by winds coming in from the Pacific, turning winter into a temporary artificial spring at unpredictable intervals. Dry air descending the eastern slopes of the Rockies melts snowdrifts in a twinkling, baring the green grass beneath. First-time tourists goggle at the sight. Meteorologists have their own explanations. Sarcee Indians, more colourfully, like to think of the Chinook Arch as the work of an irate mountain monster, nostrils exhaling hot air. Blackfoot Indians say it is the warm breath of a comely young woman strayed far from home.

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Sometimes Calgary may overdo the sentimental bit. A year or two ago the city presented a white Stetson hat to Prince Philip, the fourth or fifth he had been given. "Not another!" Philip croaked in a memorable giveaway line. Few Calgarians would be caught in a white Stetson, anyway. They prefer dark brown or black.

Hardly a trace of human life was seen when Inspector Brisebois and his Mounties, in 1875, built their police post amid a wilderness of foothills, prairies and mountains. Today the blankets and the beads are gone, wooden sidewalks have made way for concrete, high-rise brick and steel buildings replace log shacks. Diesel engines and juggernaut trucks haul freight across the foothills city, buses and "dayliner" trains whiz past where Royal Mail stagecoaches once jolted across rutted plains.

The land in which buffalo roamed has gone modern. But the past is still vivid, enshrined in such institutions as the Glenbow Foundation, begun by oil multimillionaire Eric Harvie in 1955 and containing what is described as the most meticulous record of Western Canada history in existence anywhere. The institute owns 25,000 books and 100,000 photographs, plus paintings, sculpture, films and

antiques. Comments *The Calgary Herald* in an anniversary book:

"Within 10 years, it is confidently predicted, the Glenbow collection will bear comparison with anything similar anywhere in the world, including such historic capitals as London and Paris. Perhaps, to a degree, Calgary deserves the image of a city with a big dollar sign hanging over it, but it's impossible to put a dollar value on something like Glenbow."

If beef was king in Calgary's early days, oil began to make a splash in 1914 with the Turner Valley discoveries. The oil that came out, so the story goes, was so pure that promoters poured it straight into their cars and sped back to Calgary to spread the news. Oilman Carl Nickle has recorded:

"The boom was historic. Ordinary business in Calgary came to a standstill. Hundreds of brokerage houses sprang up . . . hundreds of companies were formed. . . as much as \$500,000 changed hands daily."

The First World War temporarily stilled the excitement, but again in the 1920s Calgary became known as the most speculative city in Western Canada, in line with its characteristic gambling spirit. But many people had despaired of further gushers when on February 13, 1947, Imperial Oil struck it rich at Leduc near Edmonton, the capital of Alberta and habitually Calgary's friendly rival.

## Oil boom

Largely because of the oil boom, Calgary's population spurted from 129,000 in 1951 to 250,000 in 1961 and 398,000 10 years later. Old residents now scarcely recognise the city they once knew. Since 1947, Calgary's non-stop expansion has furrowed the brows of every civic administration. Don McKay, mayor in the frantic 1950s, went to Dallas in Texas to see what happens to an exploding oil capital, and was told "you will have tall buildings upon tall buildings." And so it proved. Calgary built outward, absorbing small municipalities one by one, enabling the city to grow as a unit instead of as a conglomeration of self-contained units. High-rise laws were changed in 1958 to accommodate 20-storey Elveden House, replacing the 12-storey Palliser Hotel as the tallest building in town. Now the 626-foot Calgary Tower, the city's most conspicuous landmark, lords it over all. In one year recently, the city spent \$500 million on high-rise business and residential construction.

Amid the concrete, parks and statues abound. Some 5,000 acres of the city are devoted to parks and recreation areas. A new Education Centre includes the 21-foot-high Armengol sculptures, purchased for the city from the British Pavilion display in 1967.

Despite narrow streets, reflecting an unreadiness for expansion, Calgary has become, more than any other community in North America, a city of cars. There are

some 255,000 registered cars and lorries in the city. And there are 52,000 motorcycles and trailers. Even Los Angeles they say, can't compete with Calgary on a car-per-capita basis.

Within the city limits, homes still outnumber flats, and commercial buildings outnumber everything in the downtown sector. "Commerce is what Calgary is all about," says one urban study which acknowledges that the high-rise jungle, while imposing, is not particularly pleasing aesthetically. One of Canada's 10 biggest cities, Calgary ranks third as a location of company head offices, with 34 against 118 for Toronto and 84 for Montreal.

## Livestock centre

Proximity to ranching and farming country has made Calgary a leading market centre for livestock. Packing plants and stockyards had a \$125 million turnover in a single year. The city's St. George's Island zoo has won world fame through its exotic forms of wildlife and 46 lifelike models of the dinosaurs which once roamed the plains northeast of the city.

Oil centre, ranch centre, agriculture centre and rodeo centre. Still not enough for Calgary, a city surrounded by some of the finest playground areas in North America. Fifty miles to the west along the trans-Canada highway is Banff National Park, renowned for skiing and scenery. A few miles away Lake Louise and an intermountain highway to Jasper National Park attract tourists from many countries. To the south lie Cardston's famed Mormon Temple and Waterton Lakes National Park, while a northern route winds through fine farming country and lake resorts to Edmonton.

## Caustic publication

Calgary can boast personalities to match its past. One of the most striking was the late Robert Chambers Edwards, universally known as Bob, a native of Edinburgh who started a caustic, highly idiosyncratic publication called the *Calgary Eye-Opener*, first published in 1902 and irregularly thereafter. Fond of a tittle, he preached prohibition in his columns but himself, in the terminology of the day, was a Wet rather than a Dry.

Yet he loved to poke fun at those who shared his weakness, as he did when recording that a Mrs. Alex Muggsy had cancelled her weekly musicale because her husband, "old man Muggsy," had been entertaining his friends at a "boozicale." Edwards was outrageous, but refreshing, and in tune with the times. His paper had the largest circulation of any paper west of Winnipeg. He had a talent for spotting people destined for high places, among them R. B. Bennett who became a Canadian Prime Minister and had a viscounty conferred upon him in England, where he came to live in 1938 and where he was buried.

One of Calgary's most controversial politicians was William Aberhart, hot gospeller of a new political philosophy called Social Credit. Social Credit swept into power in Alberta in 1935, winning 56 of 63 Alberta seats, and the party Aberhart founded remained in power in the province until 1971 — 36 unbroken years. One of Aberhart's promises was a basic dividend of \$25 to every citizen; the money was never paid.

Many British families have contributed to the Calgary story. One was the Samuel Shaw family, consisting of father, mother and nine children who emigrated from Kent in England in the late 19th century. From his home in the Fish Creek area, Shaw arranged to have a private telegraph line set up between his farm and Calgary.

The late Max Bell, Calgary oilman and publisher, cultivated the dream of winning the English Derby at Epsom. He came close. His horse Meadow Court ran second in the 1965 Derby to Sea Bird II, then went on to win the Irish Derby at The Curragh.

## Cufflinks are Dinosaur Bones

Dinosaur bones from southern Alberta, fashioned into jewellery for tourists, are the basis of a successful business selling through a crafts shop in Calgary. The 60 million-year-old bones, fossilised into rock with a hardness rating of seven (compared with a diamond's rating of 10) are cut, polished and mounted as cufflinks, earrings, tie tacks, necklaces and rings by the firm of Green's Rock and Lapidary.

Oscar Green, founder of the firm, cut his first pair of dinosaur cufflinks 16 years ago. When he took them to merchants in Drumheller he was told they would not sell. But they did — first through the Drumheller Museum and now through the Cabin Crafts Shop in Calgary. In 1973 his firm grossed C\$250,000 (about £110,000.)

The developing of this bone jewellery trade has put the scientific community somewhat at odds with collectors, tourists and craftsmen. To some, the collectors are stone-age grave robbers, while the collectors mutter about those palaeontologists who "think fossils were willed to them by God."

Mr. Green himself believes there is no need for conflict, because "when a unique specimen is found, the first one called is the palaeontologist." It was he who discovered the pachyrhinosaurus skull on display at the Drumheller Museum.

Mike Komarevich, a craftsman working with the bone, agrees. He says the "rock hounds" are not destroying valuable fossils: they are just picking up loose pieces which are so small the palaeontologist isn't interested in them. ♦

# Eskimo reactionaries cry 'Back to the Land'

By Val Wake

While the world faces the commodities crisis, the people in Canada's Arctic have come up with a solution of their own. Although the move has been prompted by social pressures more than anything else, in these days of sugar and salt shortages it makes a lot of economical sense as well.

The decision is to go back to the land. From Fort Simpson to Frobisher Bay, in 70 settlements scattered throughout the Northwest Territories, in the Boreal Forest and on the Tundra, some 20,000 Eskimo and Indian people are seriously wondering if the 20th century is really all it is cracked up to be. Might not they be better off if they went back to the ways of their forefathers?

The choice of whether "to work for wages or live off the land," to use the words of the Commissioner of the NWT, Mr. Stuart Hodgson, has confronted the Arctic people in less than a generation, especially since the Arctic oil discovery in 1970. While some have accepted the profit and challenge of "working in the white man's world," there are a substantial number of Arctic people who are deciding that the old ways are best.

Take the Mackenzie River settlement of Fort Good Hope. This is Indian Country, the land of the Loucheux. High on its embankment, nestling in the stunted pines which soften the harsh lines of the basic government issue housing, the people of Fort Good Hope have made up their minds. Recently, the deputy commissioner of the Territories, Mr. John Parker, flew in to be met by a local delegation. Old men and young men, they came from both the settlement and band council, representing both the new and traditional form of government in the settlement of about 300. They told Mr. Parker that some 25 families wanted to go back to the land, to live by trapping and hunting as they had in generations past. Mr. Parker agreed and even offered financial assistance, up to \$10,000, to help the people to get started again.

The Fort Good Hope decision is significant. It is not an isolated piece of romanticism brought on by a sudden disenchantment with the ways "outside" but a hardheaded assessment of the settlement's chances of survival which is receiving growing Canadian government support. For Good Hope is within an easy day's walking distance of the Arctic Circle, 17 miles to be exact. It is the oldest settlement in the lower Mackenzie River Valley, established in 1805 as a fur trading post. For many years it was a lively centre



for trade, boozing and inter-marrying as the first strains of "outside" bloodlines were introduced to produce that characteristic Mackenzie Delta mixture which makes it difficult to find a "pure" Indian or Eskimo any more.

## Local miracle

In 1859 Father Grollier arrived on the scene and tried to stop all that. He was not very successful but he did succeed in establishing the first Roman Catholic mission in the area. In 1870 work was started on building the wooden church of "Our Lady of Good Hope." It took five years to build and is an interesting example of local craftsmanship and religious dedication, as priests and brothers devoted their lives to decorating the church, right up until 1940. There is a story told of how one priest used wild flower dyes and fish oil to make his paints. In the pictures he painted was an illustration of the "Miracle of the Ramparts," when Our Lady appeared on the cliffs above the white water to warn a passing canoeist of the dangers below.

While the Church may have affected the spiritual life of the people it served, it did not change their day-to-day ways of making a living. River boat supplies were occasionally used to supplement one's diet but the main business was hunting caribou and trapping muskrat.

Settlement life continued along these lines until after the Second World War

when a white contractor moved in to help with the construction of a telephone land line from Hay River to Inuvik. But it was really not until the 70s that the people of Fort Good Hope found themselves facing the first serious challenge of life from the "outside."

Following the discovery of oil and natural gas in the Mackenzie Delta, the developers were not long coming in to explore the possibilities of getting the stuff south. In the winter of 1970/71, Arctic Gas started construction on a \$4.5 million Arctic test facility at Sans Sault rapids, less than 20 miles up river from Fort Good Hope. Suddenly the settlement found itself in a centre of activity which would have convinced the good Father Grollier, if he had been around, that the world had gone mad.

The river boats brought in more supplies than the Good Hope people had seen in a generation. A whole school arrived by lorry over the recently constructed bush road from the south. Young men went to the Sans Sault site and earned as much as C\$600 (about £250) a month. Honda and Yamaha motorcycles roared up and down the short dirt track which was the main street in the settlement. Father Labatt, at the Church of Our Lady of Good Hope, shook his head in bemused silence. The old people on the band council retreated within themselves while the settlement council tried to cope with the new expectations of the people it served.

Then as suddenly as it arrived the activity stopped. The youngsters came home to stay. There was trouble in clearing

the legalities of the right of way for the natural gas pipeline. The Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood was contesting the right of the developers to lay a pipeline over "our land."

Regardless of the merits of that particular argument, the decision to pull back from immediate construction of the pipeline left the people of Fort Good Hope in an unhappy state of indecision. Finally it was decided that if the settlement was going to survive, it must re-establish its roots. The decision was welcomed not only in the settlement but also in the corridors of power in Yellowknife and Ottawa.

For about two years now, the Commissioner of the NWT, Mr. Hodgson, has been going from settlement to settlement in an effort to explain the Arctic realities of the oil boom. The fact of the matter is that although there might be a sudden influx of big money into the Arctic, the long-term prospects are less than likely to bring further wealth to the Arctic people. In much the same way as the motorcycles at Fort Good Hope have run out of petrol because their owners can no longer afford it, the rest of the Arctic might once again become a wasteland of lost hope, the result of unrealised and often impractical expectations.

To help deal with this crisis, the government is resorting to a number of imaginative and sometimes untried schemes. Mr. Parker's decision at Fort Good Hope is only one of a long list of moves which are directed at getting the people of the Arctic re-established, not in the new ways but in the old ways of their fathers.

## Legends in classroom

Primary school children are being taught in their mother tongue. Old people are being invited into the classroom to recall old legends and demonstrate ancient skills. The Arctic people are being asked to take pride in the achievements of their ancestors.

Probably one of the most unusual decisions to restore the people's faith in their past is the Belcher Island Transplant. A few specks of rock, some dirt and lichen, off the north west coast of Arctic Quebec, the Belcher Islands are the most isolated bits of human habitation to come under the Territorial government at Yellowknife.

Indeed there are some people in Yellowknife who are not convinced that it does belong to the Territories. Sitting as it does just a few miles off the bleak barren Quebec coastline and surrounded by Ontario and Manitoba to the south and west, even the official community data book produced by the Territorial Government reports that the nearest police force is at Moose Factory, 370 miles away in Ontario. But while Ontario might look after the policing of this strange community of about 200, there is no denying the Arctic ancestry of this rare collection of people.

Even today they still talk in the Arctic of the time when Jesus Christ arrived on

the Belchers, when Peter Sala said he was God and men were killed because they did not believe. In April 1940, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived on the Belcher Islands for the first time in 21 years. A trial was held and Peter Sala was sent to prison for two years for killing two of his neighbours. The crown prosecutor at the trial, Mr. R. Omstead, made some interesting and often prophetic remarks in his official report on the trial:

"The Eskimo can become a problem to Canada if they choose to intervene to any extent in his life. His existence is not essential to the welfare of the country except as a source of furs. He could be entirely ignored and still thrive. . . . It is gross cruelty to him to attempt to assimilate him into our way of life."

## Official recommendations

In another part of his official report to the deputy minister of the Department of Justice of the day, Mr. Omstead said: "I most strongly urge that the Eskimos now held under detention be returned next August and not held for two years; that the Hudson's Bay Company be closed as a permanent post, that unless and until some church considers it worthwhile to the Eskimos to place a missionary permanently on the island, no sporadic attempts at religious instruction be made; that these people be left entirely by themselves so far as government intervention be concerned and lastly, that under no circumstances should the Eskimos on the Belchers or elsewhere in the Arctic be considered amenable to the Criminal Code."

While the Canadian Criminal Code has unofficially been adjusted to meet the special needs of the Arctic people, the crown prosecutor's warning about government intervention has obviously been ignored, not always as a matter of choice but often through force of circumstances. The Canadian conscience will not tolerate the idea that a people should be left to their own devices if they are in need and so the Northwest Territories government finds itself in the novel position of providing passage for 50 caribou to take up residence in the Belchers.

In line with the government's policy to encourage the Arctic people to re-establish their old lifestyle, the Northwest Territories council, made up of 10 elected members from across the Canadian Arctic, have instructed the Yellowknife administration to get the airlift organised.

The member for the Eastern Arctic, Cheshire-born Bryan (Sedluk) Pearson, is pleased. "I'm delighted to see the government taking this necessary step. To do this is an investment that has to be made. Fresh food is necessary. The health of the native people is at an all time low. Anything we do is good." (The Wallasey native was called "Sedluk" by the Eskimos. It means skinny.)

Mr. Pearson, who started in the Arctic washing dishes at a Distant Early Warning radar station in 1956, is a strong believer

in the government's responsibility to improve the lot of the Arctic people. Although at one time he might have accepted the idea that it was best to leave the Eskimo alone, it is now too late. The 20th century has already caught up with the Inuit and it is up to the elected representatives and the government to make the proper accommodation which will allow the Arctic people to survive, according to their own terms, in these circumstances.

Mr. Pearson has qualified doubts about the "back-to-the-land" movement. At his home base of Frobisher Bay where he runs a general store, the people have lost the skills and in some cases the inclination to hunt and trap. But the relative isolation of the Belchers might allow the scheme to work.

"I certainly hope so," he said.

There have been no caribou on the Belchers for nearly 100 years. The government game branch biologists believe that the herd may have disappeared when the Arctic deer's food was frozen during an ice storm and so the herd changed its migratory pattern and bypassed the Belchers. Now the government is working on a scheme to transfer 50 non-migratory caribou from Coats Island, at the northern end of Hudson Bay, to the Belcher Islands. The idea of transferring the animals from a similar or worse environment — in this case, Coats Island — is an obvious choice.

It is costing anywhere between \$100,000 to \$130,000 — about \$2,000 a head — to complete Operation Flying Deer. The animals are tranquilised before they are placed on board the twin-engined light aircraft for the 300-mile journey to their new home. Operation Flying Deer is expected to take eight to 10 years to complete.

## Earlier experiment

This is not the first time that the Northwest Territories government has transplanted a herd of caribou. In 1967 a similar experiment got started when 50 caribou were taken from Coats Island to nearby Southampton Island where once again the herds were drastically thinned out. The experiment is still being assessed but there is no doubt about the importance of "Tuktu" to the Eskimo people. Food and clothing for the winter and tools to hunt and cook with, these were all provided by the remarkable deer which even today can fill the horizon when it moves in mass across the tundra following the well-worn paths of its migratory pattern.

It was the possibility of the natural gas pipeline standing in the way of the migratory movement which posed the first and most controversial argument against the pipeline. Now the developers have been forced back to their drawing boards and while the people at Fort Good Hope enjoy a brief respite to sort themselves out, the people of the Belchers sit around their camp fires and tell stories of the old days as word about Tuktu's return spreads from family to family. ♦

# Economic Digest

## Trade surplus

Canada ended 1974 with a trade surplus of \$472 million — one quarter the balance for 1973, Statistics Canada reported late February.

In volume terms, exports were down 7 per cent and imports were up 3.5 per cent. But in value there were substantial increases in trade both ways caused by higher prices particularly for oil and food. The value of exports rose 26 per cent to \$32.1 billion and the value of imports by 36 per cent to \$31.6 billion.

Volume exports of live animals were down 46 per cent, food products down by 23 per cent, inedible crude materials down 6 per cent and end products down 4 per cent. There was no change in fabricated materials.

On the volume import side, there were drops of 21 per cent in live animals, 4 per cent in food and 4 per cent in raw materials. However, there were rises of 13 per cent in end products and 1 per cent in fabricated materials.

Statistics Canada said exports were hampered by strikes last summer at the West coast and on the Great Lakes and wheat shipments were seriously affected by port strikes dropping 14 per cent to some \$950 million in the first half of last year.

## Unemployment

Unemployment in Canada rose only slightly in February — from 6.7 per cent to 6.8 per cent. But the situation worsened in provinces with an already high unemployment rate.

In Newfoundland the rate increased by 1½ percentage points to 17.6 per cent although this was still below the peak of last summer. And in New Brunswick the figure rose from 10.9 per cent to 11.7 per cent, a record high for the province. However, three provinces showed declines — Ontario, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

Actual unemployment in Canada in February was 839,000 out of a 9.71 million labour force or 8.6 per cent. Adjusted for seasonal factors, the rate works out at 6.7 per cent which compares with 8.2 per cent in the United States.

The national unemployment rate for men aged 25 and over was unchanged at 5.2 per cent, but for younger men it increased to 14 per cent. The percentage of women aged 25 and over seeking work rose from 3.6 per cent to 4.1 per cent, and for younger women the rate went up from 9.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent.

## Estimates

The Canadian Government is planning to spend \$28.242 billion in the 1975/76 fiscal year, according to preliminary estimates announced in February.

Although this is a 28 per cent increase on the previous fiscal year's preliminary estimates, the actual rise is only about 13 per cent up on 1974 spending following supplementary estimates during the year.

One of the biggest factors in the new spending programme is \$1.3 billion to continue subsidising oil users in the east against the higher-priced imported fuel they must use. The projected total is up 11.8 per cent.

The largest increase in the estimates is \$831 million for health and welfare — a rise of nearly 12 per cent at \$7.85 billion. And the biggest percentage rise is 37 per cent for foreign affairs up to \$701 million.

Canada also plans to spend \$933 million on aid in the next fiscal year — an increase of \$200 million. Nearly a quarter of the total will go on food aid.

Government spending on buildings, land, machinery and equipment is projected to increase by nearly 37 per cent to \$1.422 billion, and its wage and salary bills including benefits are expected to rise by 12.1 per cent to \$5.106 billion.

Other major areas of spending are: defence — up 11.6 per cent to \$2.8 billion; transportation and communication — up 8 per cent to \$2.08 billion; economic development programmes — up 7 per cent to \$4.66 billion; culture and recreation — up 19 per cent to \$690 million; public debt — up 13 per cent to \$3.58 billion.

Excluded from the estimates are several programmes financed through special funds, and this includes \$3.97 billion for old age security and income supplements — up 16 per cent.

## Wages

Major collective pay settlements in 1974 provided for an average increase in base rates of 14.2 per cent with average rises for the last quarter of the year climbing to 17.4 per cent.

According to figures released mid-February by the Canada Department of Labour the 1974 increase of 14.2 per cent compares with a 9.8 per cent average for 1973.

The figures are based on a continuing analysis of collective agreements covering 500 or more workers excluding construction industry settlements.

During 1974, 113 one-year agreements provided for average annual increases in base rates of 16.6 per cent. The 245 two-year agreements provided for increases of 17.3 per cent in the first year and 10.4 per cent in the second. And the 52 three-year agreements provided for rises of 13.8 per cent, 7.4 per cent and 6.2 per cent in the first, second and third years respectively.

It was also reported in mid-March that for the first time the average hourly earnings of workers in Canadian manufacturing industries had surpassed those earned by their counterparts in the United States.

In December last year, Canadian workers earned an average of about \$4.73 an hour compared with the U.S. rate of \$4.64, said an official of the Canadian Labour Congress. The averages are for gross earnings and include overtime and shift differentials.

In December 1967 the U.S. worker in manufacturing industries earned on average 41 cents an hour more than his Canadian counterpart.

## Prices

Costs of services — education, housing costs and so on — jumped by 1.3 per cent in February as the consumer price index increased by eight-tenths of one per cent, Statistics Canada reported early March. This was the sharpest one-month rise in services in recent years.

Costly out-of-season foods were the main factor for a rise in the food index but there were declines for other foods such as beef and sugar. The index for purchases of all goods rose by six-tenths of one per cent, although this was partially offset by the car price index. This was down seven-tenths of one per cent due to rebates offered for new cars.

The overall index for February was 11.8 per cent higher than a year ago. In the three previous months the 12-month increase was 12 per cent or more. Compared with February last year, the food index was up 14.7 per cent, the housing index up 10.3 per cent, the transportation index up 11.4 per cent and the clothing index up 8.5 per cent.

The February index stood at 178 which means that the consumer goods that could be bought for \$100 in 1961 cost \$178 in February, \$176.60 in January and \$159.20 in February last year.

## Housing

The 1975 capital budget of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation amounts to more than \$1.4 billion — an increase of 12.5 per cent on last year.

New housing programme providing interest-reducing subsidies for home-owners and rental housing are expected to supplement the budget by attracting more than \$1 billion in private investment.

Urban Affairs Minister Mr. Barney Danson has said the budget is aimed at helping achieve a target of 210,000 housing starts in 1975, most of them in the low and medium price ranges.

Apart from providing more money for housing, the budget makes relatively higher allocations to programmes likely to produce quick starts and completions. There is a heavier emphasis on housing for rental to offset a sharp drop in production last year and a decline in vacancy rates in major market areas.

## The Arts

# Irish playwright returns for 'Riel'

By Jenny Pearson

*Riel*, since its first small-scale production by the New Play Society in 1950, has become the centre of a growing industry based on Coulter's portrayal of Canada's own real-life anti-hero. Before writing the play, the Irishman — at the time living and working in Canada — did some heavy research into national archives. "It was like chewing cork," he recalls. "I spent a year wading through them and writing the play."

Louis Riel, leader of the Metis people in the Canadian west during the nineteenth century, campaigned and fought for their rights against the government of his day. His career varied between periods of peaceful political leadership, banishment and open fighting, culminating in the Riel Rebellions of 1885 in which he sought to gain by force those rights which he felt his people were being denied.

Earlier he had been elected to Parliament in Ottawa as member for the district of Provencher, but was expelled from the House of Commons and banished from the country for five years. Between 1876 and 1878 he was committed to asylums in Quebec. In June 1884 he led a group of settlers, half-breed and white, in a protest against government indifference to Western grievances. The protest began peacefully with a petition sent to Ottawa but ended, as Riel became progressively irresponsible in his actions, in several months of fighting, with the Metis eventually defeated at Batoche. Riel gave himself up, was charged with treason and tried at Regina. He repudiated a plea of insanity put up by his defence counsel, was convicted and — after several postponements and an inquiry into his sanity — was executed at Regina in 1885.

How did an Irishman come to write such a very Canadian play? It began, improbably enough, with his meeting a Canadian woman, also a writer, at the London offices of the *New Adelphi* magazine, of which he was co-editor. They planned to marry in 1937, but on a visit to her family in Canada, she contracted tuberculosis. Since the doctors forbade her to travel for two years, Coulter decided to join her immediately in Canada — leaving behind all his London connections including a Home Counties series he had recently started for the BBC.

After a period living in the wilderness at Muskoka, where Coulter was able after

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**John Coulter, an 86-year-old Irish playwright now living in a modest hotel back home in Dunleary, has recently been feted in Ottawa during the revival of his play *Riel* in a full-scale production at the National Arts Centre.**

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all to complete his BBC series, the couple came to Toronto where his wife's brother introduced Coulter to the hallowed precincts of the Arts and Letters Club. Thus he made his first contact with the Canadian drama circuit, which eventually led on to the discovery and performance of his play *The House in the Quiet Glen* by Eaton Masquers at the Central Ontario Drama Festival. The play was a success and brought its author to Ottawa. Michel St. Denis was among its admirers and invited Coulter to return and work with him at his new London Studio Theatre.

Coulter decided against this, partly due to a premonition of war. Instead he decided to stay on in Canada and look around for a new subject. There was some discussion as to whether he could legitimately be called a Canadian playwright until Hugh Eayers declared to a meeting of the Dominion Drama Festival "Either John Coulter is a Canadian playwright or I resign." Coulter grins over the memory and declares, "I guess that's how I came to be a Canadian playwright."

## Suitable subject

He then went round members of the Arts and Letters Club asking what was a suitable subject for a Canadian playwright. Without exception they replied "Louis Riel." So Louis Riel it was — and even before the script was finished, two producers were on its track. Brian Doherty wanted it. But Dora Mavor Moore got it for the

opening of her New Play Society in a tiny theatre in the basement of the Royal Ontario Museum, which Coulter refers to as "the test tube."

Mavor Moore played Riel. The *Globe and Mail* of Toronto declared that the drama shone in "the sharply explicit characterisation, the unflinching humour, the economy of historical exposition, the swiftness of action, all of which are most marked in the first half of the play . . ." but the reviewer considered the court scene at the end unexciting.

Nevertheless, an extended version of the court scene is now a popular tourist attraction at Regina, where it has been performed each year since 1967 in a replica of the original court room. This is just part of a "Riel industry" that has gradually sprung up around Coulter's original script.

Though well acclaimed, the original production brought no cash return for the author. The play did not begin to pay off until the CBC put it on radio, introducing French Canadian accents. More cash came with its production on television. The Canadian Opera Company used it for the libretto of an opera by Harry Somers, though Coulter claims they did so without asking his permission or giving him any credit until he threatened to take them to court.

## Lavish production

Until now, the best financial yield has come from Regina. But Coulter declares, "The National Arts Centre has paid handsomely for this revival and brought me over for the rehearsals and to work on using more of the French dialogue which I had first put into Regina's *The Trial of Louis Riel*." All is lavish in this production — the opposite of the original "test tube" effort — with Jean Gascon assembling a high-priced cast to back Albert Millaire's arresting Riel. Robert Prevost has given the stage a wide, wooden setting and Gabriel Charpentier has set Cree songs to music.

It is the highest recognition yet of Coulter's status as a major Canadian dramatist. As an Irishman, he can also boast the great glory of a production at the Abbey Theatre — *The Drums are Out*, in 1949. It's a case of having the best of both worlds. ♦