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The Border

[TODAY]



The Neche town siren sounded last Easter Sunday afternoon for the third spring in a row. Once again the Pembina River ran swift and wild across the sugar beet fields, and all night long

the men stacked sand bags.

Neche is in flat, unfrequented North Dakota, twenty miles south of Gretna, Manitoba, and between them is a small stretch of the long, long U.S.-Canadian boundary line.

The cliché, "the longest unguarded border in the world" is true, but misleading. It suggests flower festivals and flowery speeches, and the people of Neche and Gretna are not garden clubbers or luncheon orators, but mirror images of each other — hard toiling farmers with big farms, sharing clean air and loneliness. They share the pleasures of the summer Pembina when it runs peacefully south from Swan Lake to Red River, and they share equally and with outrage the spring floods when the warm air melts the snow too fast. By the nature of the river, the Americans often get the greater share — this spring 35,000 American acres were covered. On both sides of the border there are resentments and dikes. The dikes, homemade, divert the flood water from one man's land to another man's downstream. There was particular resentment this year south of the border, but the Grand Forks, N.D. newspaper noted that there were dikes on both sides and that "indiscriminate diking pits neighbor against neighbor, relative against relative and friend against friend."

It is, in the 126th year of a fairly friendly border, an important and real dispute involving in varying degrees the farmers and the governments, in Winnipeg and Bismark and Ottawa and Washington.

It is another chapter of the long, joint, human history that has given the two nations many disputes and many settlements. The greatest of the settlements is the border itself.

It is 5526 miles long — 3145 miles over land, 2381 over water. It has fifteen major Turning

Points connected by straight lines, which zig zag from coast to coast. The last curves were eliminated in 1925. The shortest line, separating a bit of Maine from a bit of Quebec, is twenty-three and a half inches, the longest, running all along Alaska, is 647.1 miles. The border is marked with 8100 monuments and range points put up at widely different times in widely different places by a variety of men. It is crossed each day by Canadians and Americans, almost as if it didn't exist. They are going to work, going to fish or hunt, going to do business, going to visit.

It begins, on the East, through rivers which read like a calendar of saints, St. Croix, St. John, St. Francis, over the barren highlands to the Connecticut, through Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence, Lake Erie, the Detroit River, St. Mary's, Pigeon River, more lakes, Rainy River, Lake of the Woods, then the Prairies, then the Rockies and the San Juan Islands, up the edge of Alaska from Dall Island to the Beaufort Sea.

The sun takes five hours to make the trip.

The border itself is remarkable. It is almost exactly in place, fixed by coordinates of longitude or latitude, accurate to inches, to a hundredth or a thousandth of a longitudinal or latitudinal second.

But the people, particularly those in the past are remarkable too, and there have been some reasonably dramatic disputes.

On the Fourth of July, 1827, John Baker, an American living on the upper St. John, attempted to resolve what was then the confused border question by hoisting a home-made American flag inside Canada. He was subsequently arrested in bed by a posse and carried off to New Brunswick. The dispute was settled by an almost too amicable man, Richard Oswald, a Scot, appointed by the British Government to argue its case. Mr. Oswald agreed with Benjamin Franklin that Britain might as well abandon the entire North American mainland. London, surprised, said no, and the border in the East, the only part that counted then, wound its way around the rivers

and lakes.

In twenty years, the argument had moved to the other coast, to the rich but sparsely settled Oregon Territory, stretching from the 42nd parallel to the 59th and including the northern parts of the future states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and the southern slice of British Columbia. The Americans wanted to own it. The British, or more particularly the Hudson Bay Company, just wanted to trade and hunt.

Capt. John Gordon and the 55-gun British frigate, the *America*, came to Puget Sound to show the flag and support the Company but Gordon was more interested in salmon fishing. He caught none. "The old Gentleman was exceedingly kind," the Hudson Bay man wrote home, "but no wise enthusiastic about Oregon. . . . He does not think the country worth five straws."

It became apparent that while U.S. President Polk, despite the slogan "Fifty-Four Forty, or Fight," was willing to draw the line at the 49th parallel, many Londoners were opposed to settlement, including the *London Times*. But in the early days of 1846 the *Times* — spokesman for the Foreign Office — reversed its position and carried three editorials advocating the forty-ninth parallel plus all of Vancouver Island.

Both sides were now seeking the same boundary and only diplomatic etiquette stood in the way. It was overcome.

The boundary having been fixed by treaty remained to be fixed in fact. The surveys began and, in the words of Canadian historian H. George Classen, "there was only the barest essential minimum of collaboration between the parties."

The going was tough since the 49th parallel ran over precipitous mountains and in the Cascades perpetual snow covered the peaks and glaciers filled the gorges. The forests of virgin fir and pine were often impassable and Lieut. Charles W. Wilson, of the Royal Engineers, wrote in his diary about the mosquitos, ". . . one's hands are literally covered with them when writing and even when wearing kid gloves, the bites come through the needle holes in the seams . . . two mules have been blinded and six of our horses were so reduced that we had to turn them out onto the prairie and let them take their chance of living . . . all of us as you may imagine were a good deal pulled down."

The surveying was to continue, off and on, for the next seventy years and three surveyors, all Canadians, would die, two in a landslide and one when he walked too close to the edge of a cornice hanging over a valley; two thousand feet down. But the cooperation improved. The surveyors left the "line houses," homes, barns, sheds, stores, post offices and such, which stand on top of the border, extending into both lands. During the American Prohibition these often became international meeting places, with Canadian bartenders at one end of the room and American customers coming in the other.

The Treaty of 1925 established the International Boundary Commission, which maintains small offices in Ottawa and Washington and each year sends out work parties to keep clear the twenty-foot wide "vistas" which straddle the border through the forests.

The disputes of the present and the future reflect not the hunger of a few men for great tracts of land, but the push and shove of many men.

Insulin Anniversary

In the hot and sticky summer of 1921, Charles Best and Frederick Banting, two young and broke doctors, worked endless hours in a borrowed lab at the University of Toronto.

They shared the idea that somewhere in the human body was a secretion which controlled the body's use of sugar and that it could be used to control diabetes, then a common killer of children.

Dr. Banting was forced to sell his car to buy experimental dogs and keep them fed. They cleaned out the animal cages, did their own tests, and slept and ate on the premises.

They had six weeks to succeed, the limited period for which the University's skeptical professor of physiology had loaned them the lab.

They had concluded, correctly, that the secretion they sought was in the pancreas, an organ lying behind the stomach in all mammals. In

1889, Oscar Minkowski, of Strasbourg, had discovered that when a dog's pancreas was removed the dog died of diabetes.

By the end of the summer the two young doctors had extracted insulin. Within six months it was purified enough to save the life of a fourteen-year-old boy.

Dr. Best, now 73, is professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, where he has devoted a long life to research and has made major contributions in other fields of physiology.

Dr. Banting was killed in an air crash in 1941.

From October 25 to 27 the University will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Best and Banting discovery with an International Hormone Conference which will bring scientists from around the world.

Canadian — U.S.S.R. Relations

[SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS]

In international trade opposites traditionally attract — nations with endless meadows do not exchange hay.

The old rule is no longer absolute — in the technological age nations with similar landscapes may keep a brisk exchange going in ideas, in culture, in machines and in technologies.

Alexei Kosygin, visiting Canada in October, was the first Soviet Head of Government to do so. His trip was in response to Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Moscow last May, the first to the U.S.S.R. by a Canadian Head of Government.

On May 19 Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Kosygin signed a significant Protocol on Consultations which put relations between the two countries on a systematic "structured" basis. The Canadian Prime Minister emphasized that the Protocol was not just a symbolic gesture but one which would produce real and regular discussions on important subjects as do the exchange programs with Japan, Mexico, and the Commonwealth Nations.

When he returned home, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons that Canada and the U.S.S.R. still had many fundamental differences, "but surely," he said, "the only way to resolve these . . . is by increased contact and effort at understanding."

The trade between the two countries has been until recently quite limited. Canada exported enormous quantities of wheat (over \$90 million worth annually) but little else. Since 1969, however, non-wheat exports have climbed from \$4.6 million to over \$12 million. This year in addition to the broad Protocol the two nations signed an "Agreement on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology."

It provided for the establishment of "Working Groups," initially in six areas: 1) Architecture, building materials and construction; 2) Forest-based industry; 3) Non-ferrous metals; 4) Electric power; 5) Oil and 6) Gas.

It also set up a "Mixed Commission" to be jointly chaired by Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jean-Luc Pepin and L. N. Efremov, Deputy Chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Science and Technology.

The announced intention was that Canadian and Russian producers could establish direct contact so that the users could have a clear knowledge of the technical services offered by the producers. A Canadian manufacturer of sawmill equipment, for example, can contact potential buyers through the Canadian half of the Working Group. If interest is demonstrated, the Group will arrange direct contact, through visits, seminars, trade missions and such.

Last month a six-man mission on Agriculture and Food Processing, arrived from Russia with Mr. Efremov, the Russian co-chairman of the Mixed Commission at its head. It visited Ottawa and processing units in Toronto, London (Ontario), Kitchener, Niagara Falls, Winnipeg and Lethbridge.

A full scale meeting of the Mixed Commission is scheduled to be held in Ottawa early next year.

Mr. Pepin, the Canadian co-chairman, has noted that the Working Groups concerned with gas, oil, construction and electric power have been giving active consideration to the problems met in "severe climatic and permafrost conditions," and he foresees "all kinds of joint ventures" in the technological future.

Libby Dam

Last month President Nixon pulled powerfully on a rope, releasing a flood of concrete into forms for the \$400 million Libby Dam project near Kalispell, Montana.

He gave substance to plans begun seven years ago when President Johnson and Canadian Prime Minister Pearson flew over the then unharnessed waters of the upper Columbia River.

The Libby project is a singular example of Canadian-United States cooperation, involving the construction of the dam in the U.S. and the formation of a reservoir forty-two miles into Canada, flooding some 13,700 acres of land in the East Kootenay valley of British Columbia.

The dam, being built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is one result of the Columbia River Treaty of 1964. Canada's contribution is, substantially, \$12 million, in the form of the reservoir land.

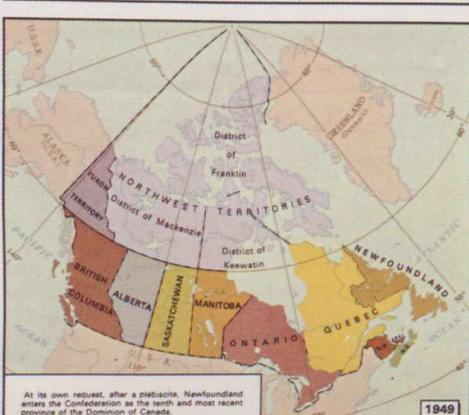
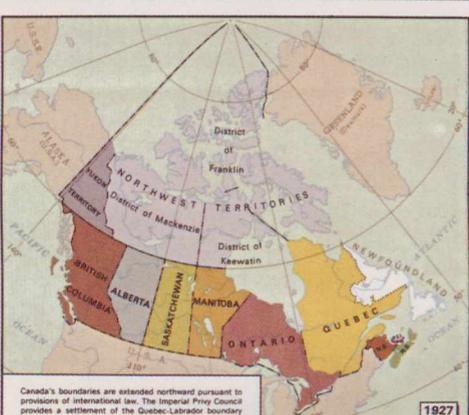
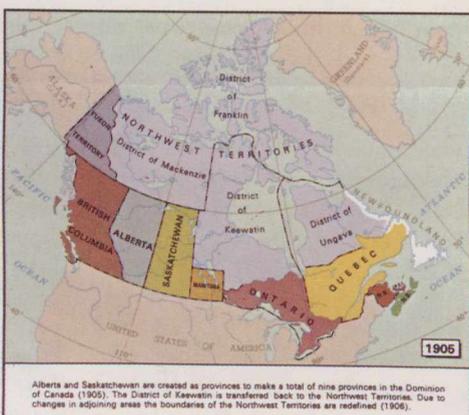
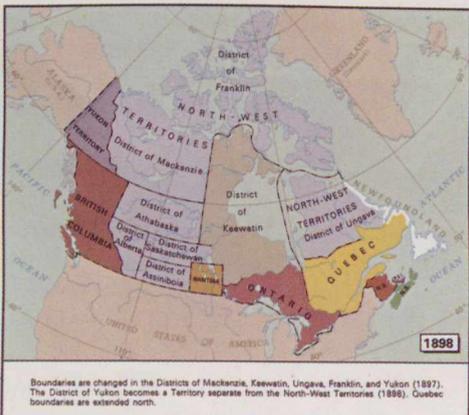
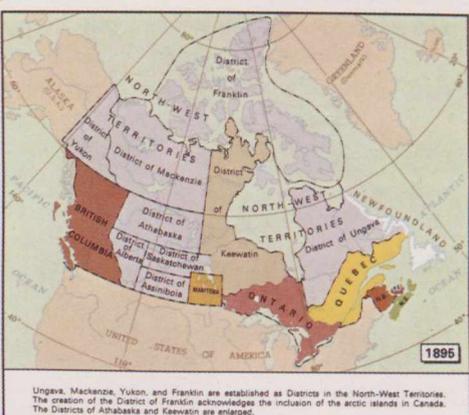
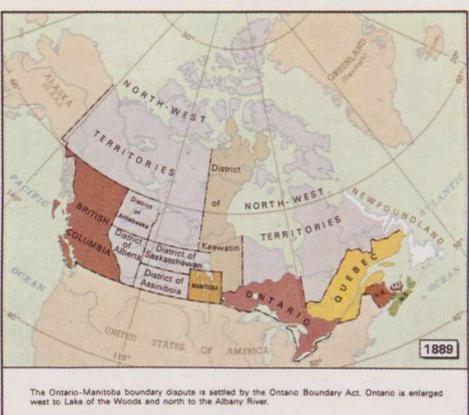
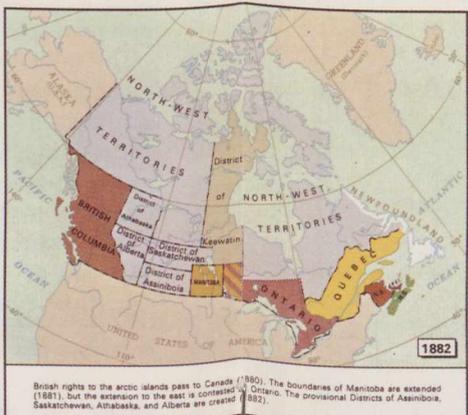
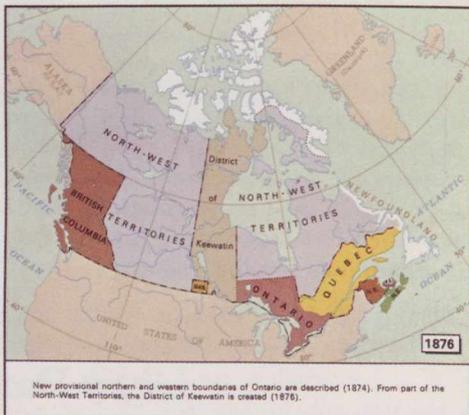
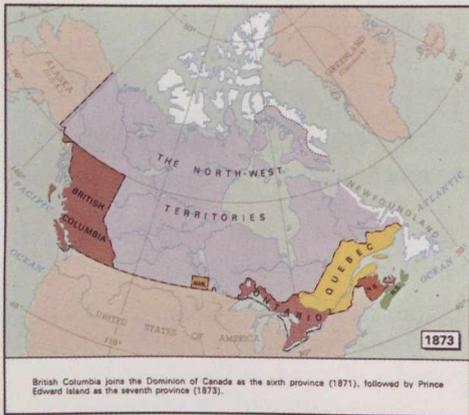
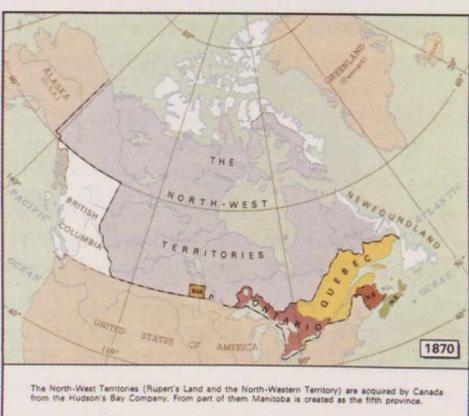
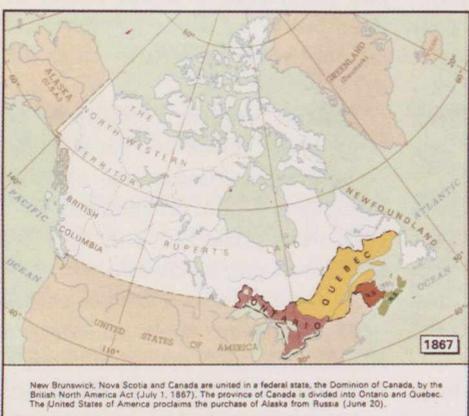
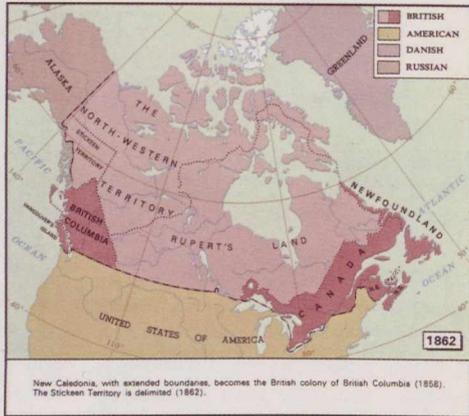
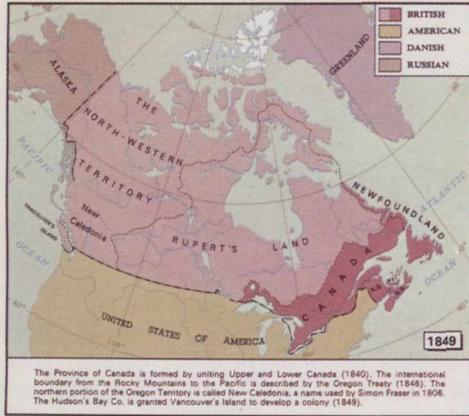
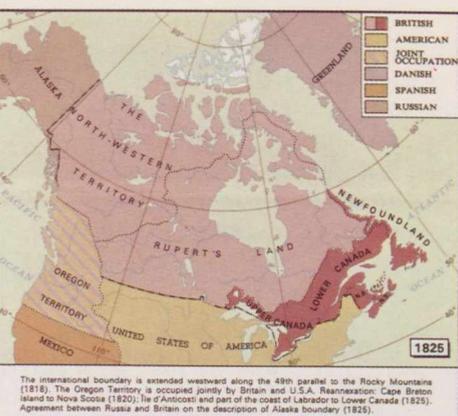
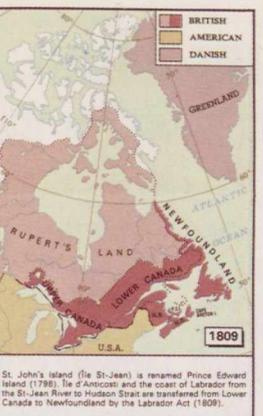
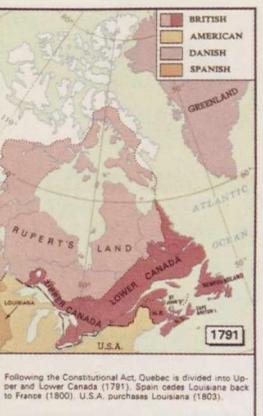
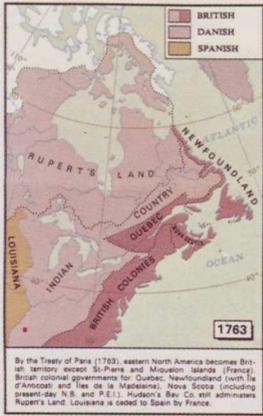
Both nations will receive considerable power and flood control benefits. The project will remove the annual flood hazard from the Creston Flats farming area in British Columbia, and will provide potential 200,000 kilowatts of low-cost power on the section downstream of Kootenay Lake.

It is scheduled for completion in 1976, somewhat behind schedule.

The territorial evolution of countries is the sort of thing that grows dimmer for most of us as we get further and further from the eighth grade. To refresh your memory, this office has a fine 24 by 30 inch

A Postage Stamp History of Canada

map, replete with exotic names and strange shapes. Printed here is a greatly reduced version. If you would like a copy of the big map, please write. One to a person, please.



Totems Truer Than Theory

[SEEMS THEY DIDN'T START FOR YOU AND ME]



For years scholars of such things have almost universally assumed that totem poles of the Northwest Indians were born purely out of the tourist trade and the introduction of European iron tools.

That, it appears, is giving a bit too much credit to the march of progress, for it now looks like carvers of the Northwest were carving their histories and jokes when ancient Greek sculptors were sculpting Venus of Melos and her sisters — maybe before.

This scholastic breakthrough, sure to cause tempest in archeological circles, comes from Dr. George MacDonald, chief of the archeology division for the National Museums of Canada and an internationally recognized authority on the Haida Indians British of Columbia. He has evidence that indicates the stylized designs go back at least to 500 B.C.

Dr. MacDonald's most important research has been at Prince Rupert Harbor, B.C., where he and a hundred students have been digging for six years. They have found amulets and combs of bone, carved with mythological crests that "go back to the foundations," and which are the same dazzling art work that is cut into the huge red cedar totems.

"The crests were the same as today," said the elated Dr. MacDonald. "They are zoomorphic, based on animal mythology."

He believes that the Indians' art was entirely geometric and nonrepresentational until 500 B.C., when the coastal population began to increase rapidly and the people split into independent village societies and developed a new form of social organization — a family rank system — for which crests were necessary.

The crests then, as today, not only spelled out the family lineage — with two "phratries" or families among the Haidas, for instance, and four among the Tsimshians — but were also used to proclaim the property rights of the owner.

Scientists have found similar carvings by the Makah Indians just over the Canadian border in the state of Washington, which were covered by mud slides over five hundred years ago.

"I can guarantee you this," said Dr. MacDonald

emphatically, "the carving of crest animals was going on a large scale for thousands of years."

Bjorn Simonson, a graduate student at the University of British Columbia and field director of the province's Archeological Advisory Board, has discovered a plank house at Higgins Pass, B.C., preserved by being charred by fire and by a ten-foot cover of refuse. It has been radio carbon dated at 500 B.C.

Another student completely excavated a very large plank house at Prince Rupert built in 1780 — before the Haidas had extensive contact with Europeans — and abandoned in 1830. The timbers were preserved and they will be displayed in the museum in Ottawa.

The plank houses prove that Indians did not need European tools to carve the wood, Dr. MacDonald said, and stone axes and adzes made of jadeite were found at these archeological sites.

No totem pole has been found anywhere that predates the arrival of the first explorers in 1787, but Dr. MacDonald contends that that doesn't mean there were none. The Indians made no attempt to preserve the poles and all eventually yield to dry rot, unless the site is submerged.

His contention is that the Northwest Indians have been sculpturing in wood on a monumental scale for several thousand years.

"The scale was probably different, perhaps shorter, flatter," Dr. MacDonald said, "and on the Haida mainland I believe there were mostly painted housefronts instead." The contention is in direct opposition to the belief of such recognized experts as the late Marius Barbeau.

Until recently when Indians realized the importance of their past and revived the old customs, no new totem had been carved in over sixty years and very few in the decades before that. Haida population dwindled disastrously through European and Asian-borne epidemics, and the number of Haidas on Queen Charlotte Island alone had dropped from eight thousand to six hundred.

The sculpturing of totems also was damaged badly by overzealous missionaries who misunderstood their nature and accused the Indians of worshipping false gods.

One missionary identified only as the Rev.

Mr. Crosby arrived among the Skidegate Haida in his boat in 1884 and threatened them with jail if they raised totems. He even put a number of converted Indians into police uniforms to convey the message.

In fact, the totems, some of the finest aboriginal art in the world, were never idolized but were raised to honor the dead, or, very occasionally, to mock the living.

They were painted scantily, but with remarkable ingenuity, the artists using red ochre, ground green rock, crushed bear dung set in the oil of salmon roe, the charcoal of alder and red cedar bark.

A very small percentage of the totems, primarily among the Kwakiutl, were ridicule posts and other tribes might have an occasional section for ridicule. One Indian chief, jailed for breaking a white man's law, had the faces of his sentencing judge and clerk of court carved, unflatteringly, one on each pole, and raised in front of his home so that his friends could help mock them as they went by.

Ninety per cent of the totems were mortuary poles, used as markers at the gravesites. It generally took about a year for the massive tree to be chosen, slightly hollowed, transported and carved.

The carver had to be chosen from the opposite phratry or family within the tribe. If there was

no qualified carver in that family, the person chosen could appoint someone else to do the job and stand over him ceremoniously from time to time and, incidentally, take the credit.

The carver was paid in the currency of the day, the vividly handsome Hudson's Bay blankets, earning ten blankets per section and generally making a five-section pole.*

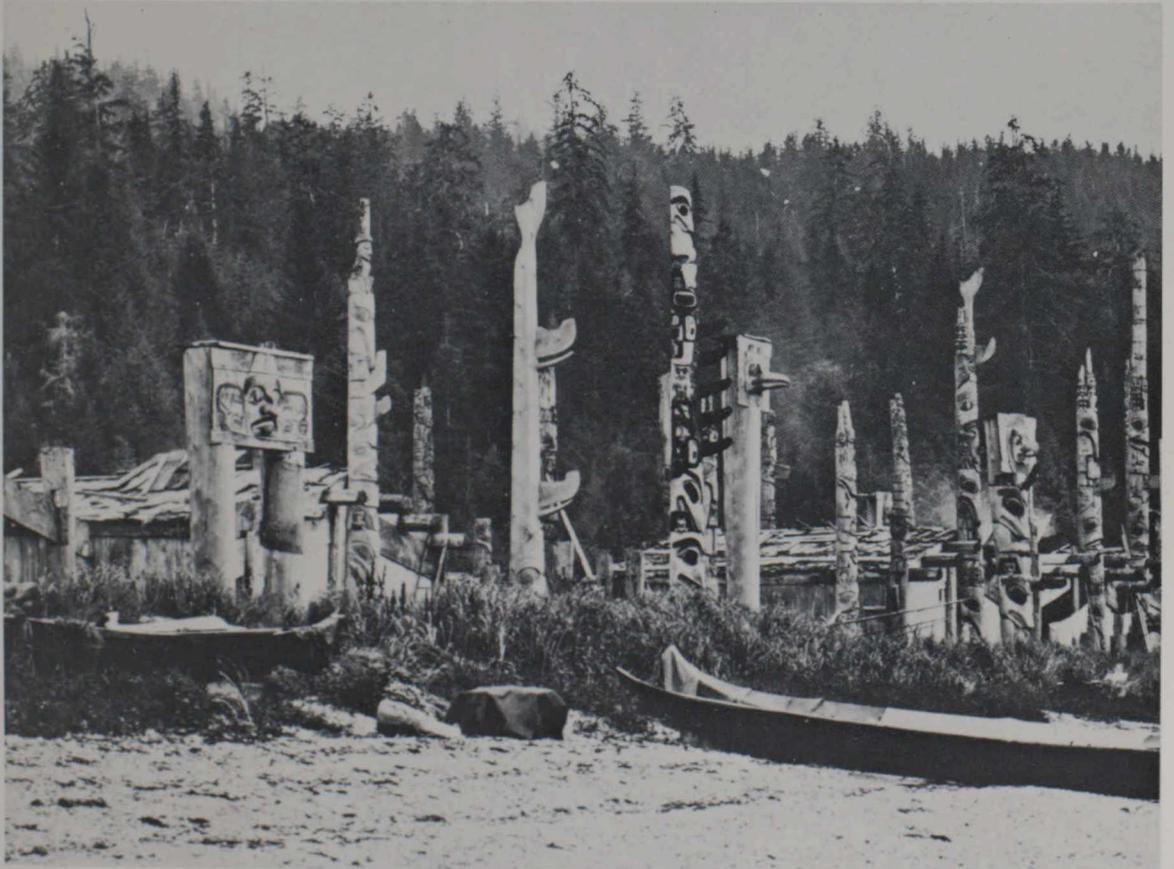
To the Northwest Indians, wealth had only one purpose—its distribution. The ultimate gesture was to hold a "potlatch" or celebration at which blankets would be given to the guests by the thousands, and many more would be tossed on the fire in the cavalier manner of the man in the nightclub who lights his cigars with hundred-dollar bills.

The potlatch was a great way to celebrate not only death, but marriage and peacemaking, and was often followed by trading.

Three years ago the Haidas of Queen Charlotte Island renewed the potlatch custom, not for the tourists but for themselves. Although tourists are permitted to watch, the potlatch of today is very much a tribal affair.

*Hudson's Bay Company still sells them. For an illustrated pamphlet or for a brochure on the history of the blankets, write:

Hudson's Bay Company
Shopping Service
Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



Good Works

At a moment in Western history when two generations regard each other with confusion if not distaste, the middle-aged men in Ottawa have spoken with at least some success to Canada's young.

Last summer the Government's Opportunities for Youth program provided 27,832 young men and women with an almost confusing variety of jobs — cleaning rivers, mending roofs, compiling history, making movies, gathering statistics and seeking solutions to such difficult problems as drug addiction.

The program was deliberately experimental. The 2,316 projects, in each case designed by the young people who ran them, were picked in some haste last spring out of 13,700 proposals. This month the Government will consider a survey on the program made by an independent committee of 100 and decide if it should be extended and expanded for the summer of 1972.

When the program was announced Prime Minister Trudeau said: "We are saying, in effect, to the youth of Canada that we are impressed by their desire to fight pollution, that we believe they are well motivated in their concern for the disadvantaged, that we have confidence in their value system. We are also saying that we intend to challenge them and see if they have the stamina

and self-discipline to follow through on their criticism and advice."

Teams of youngsters were soon working on some obvious problems of the land, cutting paths through forests, clearing an unusable canal in Halifax for canoists, repairing the homes of the elderly. Others tackled more subtle and difficult problems, providing medical, dental, legal and social services to those in specific need.

Last month the Canadian Council on Social Development made a preliminary favorable report on the program after interviewing 144 persons and groups across Canada; 49 were actually involved in OFY, 27 were indirectly involved and 68 were not involved at all. The report suggested emphatically that future programs "be announced earlier and have a more orderly and defined structure."

The final conclusions of the program's successes and failures are yet to be made, but Canada's Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier said in late summer that he felt the program had "given us a good gauge of what the aspirations of our youth really are." The Secretary, an active man in his early fifties, said it had also given the lie to those who say that young people are an essentially self-centered lot.

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