

CANADA'S FUR TRADE HAS GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Canada's first industry, the fur trade, dating from the days of Jacques Cartier, has grown by leaps and bounds since Confederation, notwithstanding the fact that most people look upon it as almost a thing of the past. In 1867 the return from the fur trade was about \$769,000, while in 1926, it is estimated, the value of pelts purchased from trappers and fur-farmers was over \$22,000,000.

For two centuries and a half the Canadian fur trade has yielded rich returns to English investors. The profits of the early traders were enormous. The records of 1676 show that the "Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" sent to the Bay merchandise costing £650, and the furs obtained by barter sold in England for £19,500. The dividend on stock of £10,500 was sometimes as high as one hundred per cent. All went well until rival companies entered the field. Trade was followed and profits dwindled to the vanishing point. In 1821, after years of strife, the Hudson's Bay Company emerged triumphant, secured legal recognition of its monopoly and forty years of prosperity followed.

The company's right of exclusive trade in Indian territory expired in 1859 and two years after Confederation it surrendered to Canada its jurisdiction over the Great Northwest for the sum of £300,000, lands about its trading posts and one-twentieth of the land in the fertile belt between the north Saskatchewan river and the United States boundary. Many of the shareholders thought this spelt ruin for the company, but it has grown in strength and has continued to make enormous profits out of the fur trade, its land department, and its chain of departmental stores.

London, England, for nearly two hundred years, had been the principal market for the fur trade, but during the World War the market shifted to the United States. At the close of the war, Montreal became an international fur market, holding the first fur sale in 1920, when 949,565 pelts were

disposed of for \$5,057,114. Auction sales have also been held at Winnipeg and Edmonton. The Canadian fur market is now firmly established and sales held three or four times a year.

Improved methods of capture, together with the advance of lumbering, mining and agricultural settlement, have driven fur-bearing animals farther and farther afield. Close seasons have been declared for Russian Sable, Bolivian Chinchilla and Canadian Beaver, but even this has been insufficient, as is shown by a continued decrease in the numbers of the animals sought.

The fur trade has taken on new methods to supply the demand, renaming common and despised furs and encouraging the use of the furs of domestic animals. Of fur-bearing wild animals in Canada, the fox has proved the most suited for domestication. The successful breeding of the fox or fur farms came in the period of rising prices after 1890. Other animals—raccoon, mink, marten and the malodorous skunk—have been domesticated, though less successfully than the fox.

Through all the changes in the trade the Hudson's Bay Company has remained the greatest trader in furs. Its chief collecting point is now Winnipeg. Yearly, as in the early days of its operations, a vessel from London visits Moose Factory laden with supplies for the trade and returns with a rich cargo of pelts.

DIRECT RELIEF.

It was a dramatic moment in the play when with fiery denunciation the hard hearted father was about to thrust his erring daughter out of his house forever.

"What can I do? Where can I go?" cried the girl throwing herself down sobbing.

There was a tense silence. Then amid the sobs rose the shrill voice of a woman in the gallery: "Come home with me, lass!"

CHICAGO TEAM WINS FIRST SERIES GAME

New York, June 17—Chicago repelled the Athletics at Philadelphia today by 6 to 4 in the first game of a series and strengthened their hold on second place. Al Simmons accounted for all the Philadelphia runs by crashing his ninth homer of the season in the first inning with the bases filled.

In winning his twelfth game this year and his ninth in succession, Ted Lyons limited the Mackmen to four hits and did not allow a hit after the third inning. Only three of the Athletics reached first base after the first stanza and none traveled as far as second. Lyons saved up his own game by whacking a triple off Grove with two on base in the eighth.

The 12 victories for the Chicago pitcher stand as the best mark in the majors thus far. He has been defeated twice.

SECTION MAN WAS KILLED ON A SPEEDER

Moncton, June 17—Through running head-on into the C. N. R. east-bound Ocean Limited train No. 4, with the hand speed on which he was riding, J. Arthur Poirier, aged about 45, section man on the Matapedia division of the C. N. R., was instantly killed about one mile west of Lac Au Saumon, Que., this morning at 8.25 o'clock.

Poirier resided at Amqui, Que., about six miles west of where the tragic affair occurred, and he was apparently on his return there after completing an inspection of the section on which he was employed.

There were also flappers says a physician in the middle ages. A widespread theory is that they are the same flappers.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE LITTLE THEATRE MOVEMENT IN CANADA

Amateur theatrical societies have been in existence a long time, but it is only about fifteen years ago that the first experimental amateur producing groups were established in Canada. The movement grew slowly and was seriously interrupted by the war. Suddenly a real public interest developed, probably the principal reason was the dominance of the "movies" and the virtual death of touring companies. Now all over this country there are hundreds of amateur producing organizations of many different kinds, groups in colleges, schools, and churches. Their name is legion, and their methods of organization, their strength, their equipment, the quality of their productions vary exceedingly.

Hart House Theatre, Toronto, the Ottawa Drama League, the Vancouver Little Theatre Association and the Winnipeg Community Players are at present their four best known groups in Canada. They own their own theatres, and Toronto and Ottawa both employ professional directors.

No citizens of Toronto ever think of Hart House Theatre without associating with it the name of Vincent Massey. Not only has Canada's Minister to the United States given very generously to our country's most perfectly equipped Little Theatre, but he has also acted with considerable success in some of the major productions. Hart House Theatre is on the University of Toronto grounds, but its charter gives it practically complete freedom of action and it is liberally patronized by the general public as well as the University students.

The Ottawa Drama League, which has grown from a small reading circle of fifty-two in 1913 to a producing group with one thousand five hundred and two members in 1927, is numerically the largest Little Theatre group in Canada.

Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent General of the Department of Indian Affairs, and well known Canadian poet, is the active president, and Rupert Caplan, formerly prominently associated with the Community Players of Montreal is the producer. Among the various authors whose plays have been presented by the League are the following Canadians: Mazo de la Roche, Merrill Denison, Donald Guthrie, Stephen Leacock, Marion Osborne, Lloyd Roberts and Duncan Campbell Scott.

The Vancouver Little Theatre Association, though only in existence since 1921, has already gained quite a reputation on the Pacific coast for its artistic productions and its strict adherence to the four main objects of the association which are: (1) To promote the study of the drama; (2) to produce high-class plays by British and foreign dramatists not ordinarily given by travelling companies; (3) to encourage and provide facilities for the production of plays by Canadian dramatists; (4) to develop the arts of costume scenic design and stage lighting.

The Winnipeg Players made a very wise move when they added "Community" to their title. They have lived up to the true meaning of the word in its fullest sense and their public realize that in the Community Theatre they have an outlet for whatever artistic abilities they may possess.

There is no doubt that general interest in the Little Theatre movement will increase in the years to come. The wave is not yet at its height. Interesting experimentation will go on throughout Canada, and doubtless some significant contributions will be made to the theatre arts.

GAY SUNSHADES IN ENGLAND

London, June 18—"Flowery and fruity" describes the sunshades which have been designed for women to carry at society functions this season.

Most of the sunshades have a flat top on which queer designs are placed many show clusters of hand embroidered flowers strewn carelessly about the silk covering. Others have hand painted clusters of grapes, pears, apples, or peaches as a border or an over-all "fruity" design.

One or two are made from very fine straw, finely plaited.

CLOSE U. S. COLLEGE FOR HORSE DOCTORS

Washington, June 18—The passing of the horse has caused the closing of the United States College of Veterinary Surgeons here.

The last commencement of the college which was founded 35 years ago was held last night with the graduation of four students. At the exercises, President Robinson announced the shutting down of the college.

Waiter!

He—I thought the doctor told you not to eat any rich food before going to bed.

She—Then I won't go to bed. Order me some lobster salad, please.



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CANADA HAD NO FUEL PROBLEM AT TIME OF CONFEDERATION

At the time of Confederation Canada had no fuel problem. Every farm had a wood lot and forests skirted the towns and cities. Wood was almost the universal fuel and it could be obtained at very low cost. Wood is now about the least economical fuel. "King Coal" has usurped the place of the monarchs of the forest.

Canada possesses one-sixth of the world's supply of coal, but the areas of production are so distributed that she is forced to import over half her annual supply.

The coal industry of Vancouver Island has to face the competition of cheap oil fuel from California, Mexico and Peru. Alberta needs to extend her markets so as to absorb the production she is capable of making. New Brunswick faces the problem of how best to mine her thin seams; in Nova Scotia there are problems of markets and submarine mining.

The greatest problem is connected with our imports of coal into the coal-less area of Central Canada, and the most urgent phase of this is to secure a substitute for about 5,000,000 tons of anthracite imported from the United States, and to this problem the Fuel Board is giving special attention. There are several reasons for this, among the most important being: (1) The certainty of the ultimate exhaustion of the American anthracite supply; (2) possibility of an embargo against export; (3) rising prices; (4) the fact that Canada cannot control supply, price, or quality of this coal.

The danger of Canada's dependence on American anthracite was emphasized by the strike in the United States coal fields in 1922. Manufacturing industries were jeopardized and hardships endured by people generally. A substitute was a necessity for the imported anthracite. Attention was turned to the production of coke. In 1923 the consumption of coke in Ontario and Quebec was 275,000 tons; in 1925 this has risen to 667,000 tons. At the last session of the Federal Parliament a Bill was introduced providing a subsidy applicable to the erection of by-product coking plant. This measure had a dual purpose—to assist the Canadian mining industry and to relieve the fuel situation in the industrial areas. If 70 per cent of Canadian coal is used the manufacturer is entitled to the full subsidy but if less than 50 per cent no subsidy is paid.

There would be no fuel problem if our coal fields were situated near our industrial centres, but unfortunately they are in the far east and far west, whereas our great centres of popula-

tion and industry are in Ontario and Quebec. To meet this situation the question is so to adjust freight rates that the eastern and western coal can reach central Canada at a price that will enable it to compete with the United States product.

The coal situation would have been more acute had it not been for the development of the water-powers. In 1913 the consumption of coal was 4.2 tons per capita; in 1926, only 3.5. During this period population had increased about 25 per cent, but the installed turbine water-power 170 per cent. It would require 27,000,000 tons of coal to do the work done by the 4,556,000 turbine horse-power installed at the end of 1926.

Coke and "white coal" will go far to solve the fuel problem and free the Dominion from dependence on the United States mine operators.

IS SURE THAT THE BRUTE HAS BEEN CAUGHT

Winnipeg, June 17—The chain of evidence against the prisoner charged today with the murder of Mrs. Emily Patterson and Lola Cowan, Winnipeg victims of "The Strangler" tightened this afternoon when Mrs. J. L. Hill, rooming house proprietor identified him as the man who rented the room in which the nude body of Miss Cowan was found.

From a group of prisoners in the bull pen of the city jail Mrs. Hill picked the strangler suspect as her transient lodger.

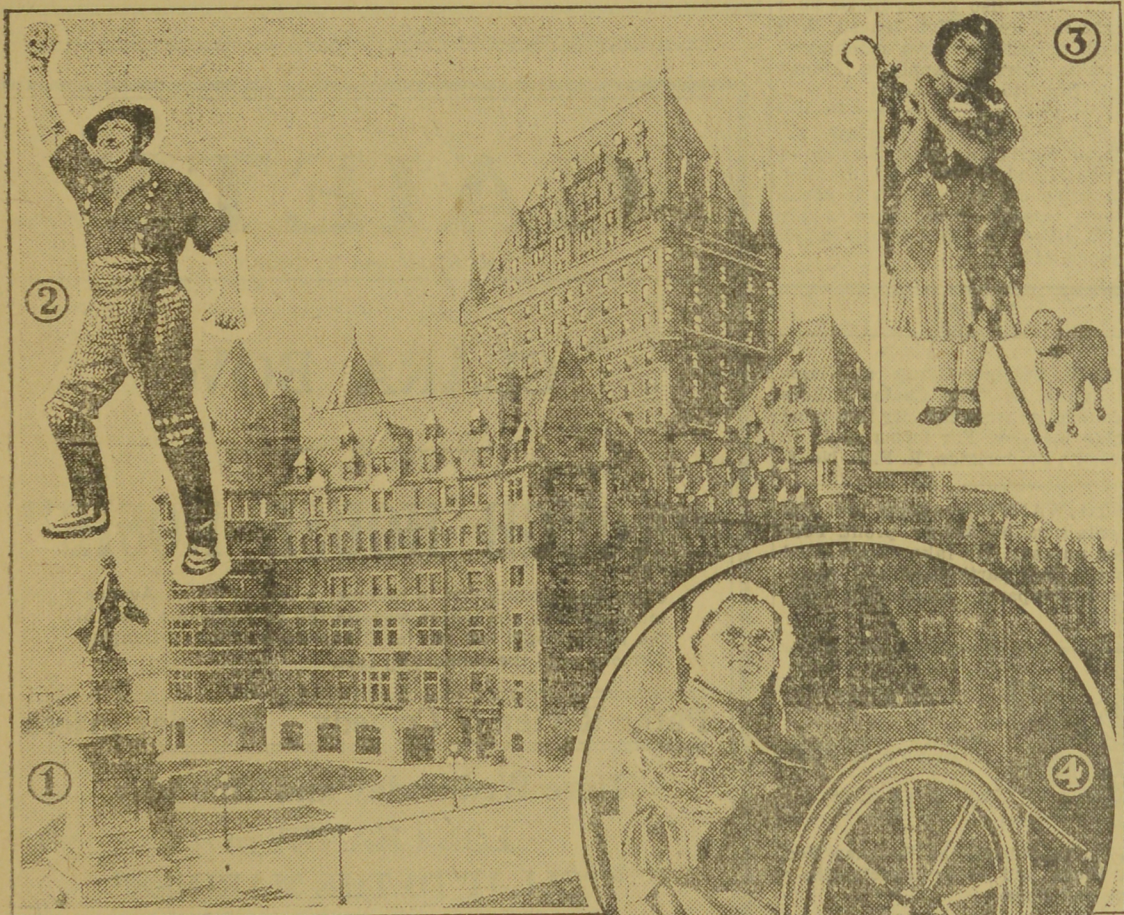
"That's the brute I'd recognize him among a thousand."

Mrs. Hill said as she pointed an accusing finger at the man who previously police said had been identified as the "Gorilla Man" slayer of a score of defenceless women in Canada and the United States.

Portland, Me., June 18—With eight airplanes circling overhead in a sham battle, the Eastland, new \$2,000,000 hotel, was opened to the public, after exercises in which Gov. Brewster, Graham McNamee, the radio announcer, and others took part.

The key of the big hostelry was dropped into the harbor from an airplane to signify that the latching always would be out for travelers. The Rev. Henry Stiles Bradley of the State Street Congregational Church was toastmaster at the banquet.

Cultural Wealth Revived



(1) Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, where Festival was held. (2) Charles Marchand, French-Canadian folksong interpreter. (3) The song of the little shepherdess was a hit of the children's offerings at the Festival. (4) Typical Quebec woman seated at her spinning wheel.

By all accounts the Canadian Folksong and Handicraft Festival held at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, under the auspices of the National Museum of Canada was an unqualified success. More than any previous event which had to do with French-Canadian folk music it has brought to public notice the rich heritage of native song in Canada. Not merely did the concerts prove magnetic, but the general atmosphere of the Festival brought forth something dormant, a wealth of national culture that has been buried under the oppressive weight of materialism.

Quebec during the three days of the Festival was invaded by artists from all parts of Canada—celebrated singers from the large cities and the most humble, though not the least interesting, interpreters of the Canadian folksong from the outlying districts. The Festival, looked upon as a whole, has brought forth artists and material never suspected. The celebrated men and women were applauded but those unknown quantities like the village songsters and dancers, and the Hayons of Lorette, supplied that unusual atmosphere of novelty and attraction that characterized the Festival.

Vincent Ferrier de Repentigny and the lumberjacks in their checked shirts and grey breeches; Phileas Bedard with his homespun clothes and his beaming smile; the fisherfolk from Gaspé; Madame Leblond and her daughters with their spinning wheels and hooked rugs; Napoleon Leblond from the Isle of Orleans with his toy ships carved by hand; the women from L'Assomption braiding the Canadian sash—almost a lost art—and in contrast with these the superb singing of cultivated artists, Cedia Braut,

Juliette Gaultier, Jeanne Dusseau, J. Campbell McInnes and Rodolphe Plamondon. Nothing more thoroughly Canadian can be imagined than the rollicking songs of the lumberjacks and raftsmen of Quebec by Charles Marchand and his "Troubadours."

And it looks as if the Festival will become an annual event. At the close of the last concert in Quebec, it was announced that not only would the Festival be held next year, but that E. W. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, had offered \$3,000 in prizes for compositions to be played at the 1928 Festival. The compositions to be based on French-Canadian chansons and folk melodies, for which prizes are offered as follows:

- 1.—\$1,000, divided into \$750 and \$250 as first and second prizes, for instruments, and not to last over 30 minutes.
 - 2.—\$1,000, divided into \$750.00 and \$250.00 as first and second prizes, for a cantata introducing French-Canadian chansons populaires; the \$750 to be divided; \$500 for music and \$250 for libretto; the \$250 to be divided; \$150 for music and \$100 for libretto.
 - 3.—\$500 for suite for string quartet, not to last over twenty minutes.
 - 4.—\$250 for group of arrangements of four chansons populaires for male voices.
 - 5.—\$250 for group of arrangements of four chansons populaires for mixed voices.
- The last two (4 and 5) are confined to Canadian composers. The others are open to international competition. Judges and details will be announced as soon as possible, through the musical press.