

Canada Has the Most

by ARCHIBALD McCOLL

I HAVE come to New Brunswick to build a bridge—a very big one. New Brunswick has fishing and hunting, but only one basic industry—the pulp mills. No foreigners or immigrants have come to live here in a hundred years, only tourists from the “Boston States” (New England) — a section cut off from Canada by the State of Maine.

Maine cannot live without Canada, but it has no money to build a road for Canadians to jaunt back and forth on. All their railroads are Canadian. Very few Americans know that. The port of Portland, Maine, was built by the Canadian government to short-haul to Montreal—but it was never used. It is political suicide for a government to take business away from St. John and Halifax in favor of Portland, so the railroads are subsidized for hauling the freight six to nine hundred miles further from Montreal.

However, I have a solution for the problem. We have “separatists” in Quebec who raid armories, steal weapons, plant bombs and rob banks, as part of an effort to liberate Quebec, and they are now being sent to jails. I would put these people on the payroll and send them to Maine to liberate it so New Brunswick could annex it and build a road. I think President LBJ would go along with that and give them their independence or “freedom,” because they always vote Republican anyway.

I write this on the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, formerly known as Empire Day, and before that as Queen Victoria's Birthday. They are talking of renaming it Canada Flag Day or Unity Day, or something equally insipid. What we need to remember on Victoria Day is that the British Em-

pire grew big on free trade and fell apart on tariffs.

Here in Canada we have more doctors than any other country, and they are all so specialized that there are not enough to go around. We also have more hospitals and evidently more diseases, because they are full all the time. We have more government officials per capita than any other country in the world, except maybe Castro's Cuba, where you work for the government or starve to death in the Isle of Pines prison (where there are now 300,000 Cubans).

In Ontario, where I live, 2 per cent of all male persons between the ages of 21 and 41 work as policemen, and there are more jails than in any other civilized land. According to Parkinson's law enough criminals must be found to keep the courts busy, provide paper work, employ jail guards and keep governments letting out contracts for more prisons.

But don't look smug—the U.S. and other Canadian Provinces are going that way too, “in the name of progress.” We in Ontario are further distinguished by having more nut houses and psycho doctors on the payrolls than any other province. The wise guys are inside—they don't pay taxes. The rest are trying to get in because the government started sending them income tax forms and they go nuts trying to figure them out. The income tax was slipped in as a “war measure” to catch the war profiteer. Then the rich said, “let's broaden the base,” and they lowered the boom till *everybody* had to pay. So we have more tax collectors, policemen, and SPIVs (VIP spelled backwards) than there are people doing useful work.

They could not rake in enough un-

der the gold dollar wage scale so they inflated the dollar, making it worth only 23 per cent of the pre-war dollar. Everybody now gets four times as many but retains less because, without passing any laws, the government found a way to take a much greater percentage of earnings by putting everybody in a higher tax bracket.

Well, that's where we've gone since good old Queen Victoria built an empire on freedom of trade. Her ships and people sold where they could and lived where they pleased, and there was a respected court system and a government interested in justice. Now that we are a commonwealth, we have old age pensions because everybody is broke when they are old — and they are broke when they are born so we have baby bonuses too. These end when they are 16 or stop going to school, so we have "welfare" for those who are neither young nor old, plus unemployment insurance to pay people who don't work and improvement taxes to fine those who do.

Now you may wonder how Canada survives with this overloaded, overstaffed and overstuffed economy. We were the fourth military power at the end of the second world war, and we have not yet fallen below seventh place. We have the greatest storehouse of mineral rocks known to man and more than adequate oil fields. We produce more than any country on a man-hour basis. Why? Because Canadians are better men? Aren't Canad-

ians just English, Scots, Irish, French, Okies, Poles, Italians and every other kind of immigrant? Yes they are, and the reason is *power*. Canadians use more power per man-hour than any other people to do their mining, farming, milling and lumbering, and more natural power too, because they have bigger engines than the others ever heard of.

But with only 22 million people, and the most wealth producing land, they can afford to keep a vast army of people on the bum, on the pensions, in government chairs, receiving baby bonuses, and on civil welfare. They can also build more nut houses, maintain a military establishment far out of proportion to their population, have more poverty and be crazier than anybody else.

In the glorious days of Queen Victoria and her affluent Edwardian successor, our free trade companies grew to be the biggest in the world, with assembly plants from Argentina to Germany. If in that era some ruling monarch had been wise enough to introduce a tax on land values, the rest of the world would have had to join the British Empire or at least imitate it. But most likely the monopolists of other countries would have started a war to annihilate it, rather than have the "bad example" of land value taxes held up as a good thing. Well, they did do it by war. It was by war that we got the income tax and all the other socialist-inspired gimmicks.

Robert Clancy, Director of the Henry George School, who has been elected to the Executive Board of the New York Adult Education Council, led an evening panel discussion at the Council's all-day conference on June 11th.

The subject, "Adult Education and the Problems of the Metropolis," was presented in talks by Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, a YWCA executive director, and Anthony F. Gonzalez, Chairman of the American Spanish Committee. Dr. Ralph R. Reuter of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union could not be present, but a paper was read expressing his views.

Mr. Clancy brought into discussion the moral blight of "non-involvement" on the streets of New York (See "A Word With You" page 2), and this led to enthusiastic debate regarding the extent to which adult education should concern itself with morals and social responsibility.