

Canadian Court Becomes 'Supreme' in Fall

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Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—By late this year or early next year, the Supreme Court of Canada will become "supreme" in fact as well as in name.

By that time, the judicial committee of the Privy Council in London will probably have disposed of all the remaining appeals from Canada. The court at Ottawa, whose members are little known to the general public, in its quiet work will be Canada's court of last resort.

Appeals to the judicial committee in criminal cases were dropped some years ago, and other appeals were abolished by act of Parliament proclaimed a Ottawa Dec. 22, 1949. That act however provided that any cases in Canadian courts prior to the date of proclamation could still be appealed to the Privy Council.

CLEAN UP BACKLOG

The Privy Council now is dealing with the backlog of Canadian appeals, and should complete this work possibly by December, or by next March at the latest. The schedule might be interrupted if some cases hang in provincial courts here should be appealed to the Supreme Court and thence to the judicial committee.

When the Privy Council concludes its work, the nine-member Supreme Court will be Canada's final court, working in its ornate, high-ceilinged, oak-paneled room in the new Su-

preme Court building near the Parliament buildings.

Decisions of Chief Justice Thibault, Rinfret and his eight puisne justices will be final. The justices are Patrick Kerwin, Robert Taschereau, Roy G. Kellock, Ivan Rand, James V. Estey, Charles H. Locke, John A. Cartwright and Gerald Fauteux.

Members of the court, appointed by the government to serve during "good behavior," are compulsorily retired at 75. Chief Justice Rinfret now is 73. He receives a salary of \$25,000 as chief justice, and other members of the court receive \$20,000.

and constitutional cases, many of them appeals from lower tribunals.

CONDITIONS OF APPEAL

It hears civil cases if they have first gone through the highest appeal court in the province and one of the parties is still dissatisfied. Unless special circumstances warrant an exception being made, amount involved in civil cases heard by the court must be not less than \$1000.

In criminal cases, the court hears appeals based only on questions of law. The appeals are heard if there are indications that the trial judge erred in his charge to the jury or in the admission of evidence.

In constitutional cases, the court hears matters referred to it directly by the federal government or cases appealed from provincial courts. The court has

the power to decide whether laws passed are within the power of Parliament or provincial legislatures.

All nine justices hear important cases. Membership may be reduced to seven or even five for other cases. This enables judges not sitting to write judgments on earlier cases or to hear in chambers applications for leave to appeal to the court.

INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE

The hearings are conducted with an informality surprising to the casual visitor to the court. Lawyers address the bench in conversational tone, never bursting into the oratory employed to sway juries. A lawyer's carefully prepared written argument may become useless as a result of a brief comment from one of the justices that it has no bearing on the case.

The justices do not hesitate to interrupt the lawyers to ask question or to give advice. No effort is made to rush proceedings.

When the argument is concluded, the court usually reserves its decision. The justices confer later and argue the merits of the case and express their own points of view.

These conferences disclose whether there will be a unanimous judgment or whether there will be majority and minority decisions. An uneven number of justices hear cases to eliminate the possibility of ties.

FROM ALL PARTS

All parts of Canada are represented in the court's membership. Chief Justice Rinfret is a native of Montreal. Mr. Justice Taschereau, 56, is a native of Quebec, and Mr. Justice Fauteux, 52, comes from St. Hyacinthe, Que.

Mr. Justice Kerwin, 63, was born in Sarnia, Ont. Mr. Justice Kellock, 59, in Perth, Ont., and Mr. Justice Cartwright, 57, in Toronto.

Mr. Justice Rand, 53, is a native of Moncton, N.B., and is a former attorney-general of New Brunswick. Mr. Justice Estey, 63, was born at Keswick, N.B., but moved to western Canada and once served as attorney-general for Saskatchewan. Mr. Justice Locke, 65, is a native of Morden, Man.

Coronation Guides Trained Carefully

LONDON (CP)—The problem of suitable guides during coronation year is one of many to be tackled by the British Travel and Holidays Association. The need of this service will be seriously considered both from a standpoint of protection for the tourist and the prestige of the association, according to a report just published.

From November of this year until next January applicants for the roles of guides will be given a course of 16 evening lectures. They will then be given practical tests to see if they know their stuff.

Students taking the course will be expected to have a good working knowledge of English history, geography, topography, national and local government, art, architecture, current exhibitions and special events. Only a limited number of applicants will be accepted. Those who pass written and practical tests will be given a certificate and a badge.

The association is not concerned with guiding from a commercial standpoint. Its main function is to provide persons who can do the job properly and so reduce the chance of tourists being duped by opportunists.

Government To Tackle School Costs Problem

VICTORIA (CP)—A distribution of school costs in British Columbia—a problem for years—will be tackled by the Social Credit government.

Education Minister Mrs. Tilly Rolston said today no time will be wasted in getting at the job but she said it is "very difficult" and may take some time to

TIMBER WEALTH

Rich in fine timber, the Andaman Islands are in the Bay of Bengal 800 miles east of Madras.



COMING HERE—Jimmy MacLachlan, known better by his nickname, Little Bambi, who plays accordion and guitar, sings and is considered one of the finest square dance callers in the Fraser Valley, is among those who will entertain with Evan Kemp and The Five Trail Riders at the Civic Centre, September 29, and in the Leaven Auditorium on September 30.

ANCIENT RIVERS
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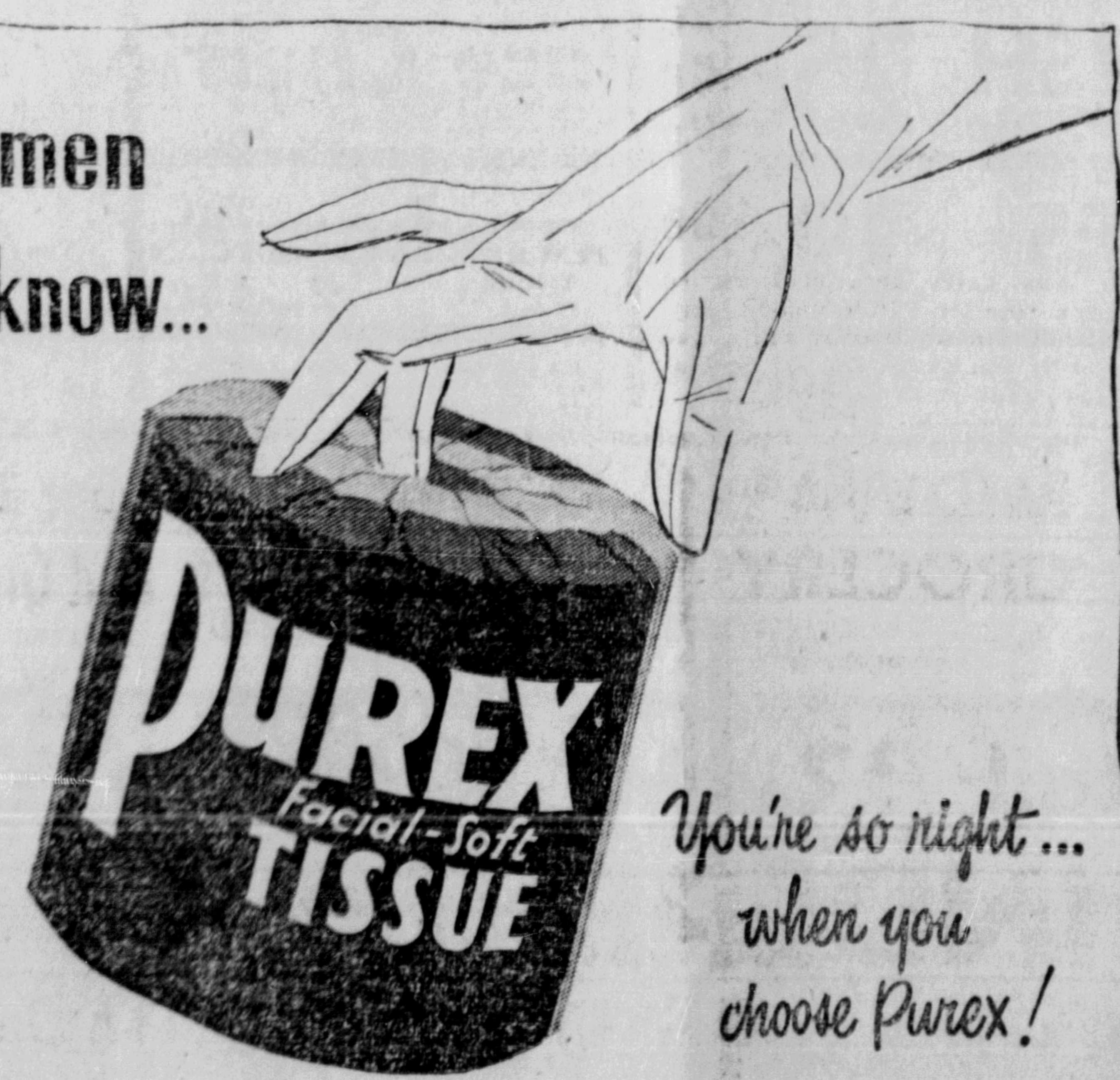
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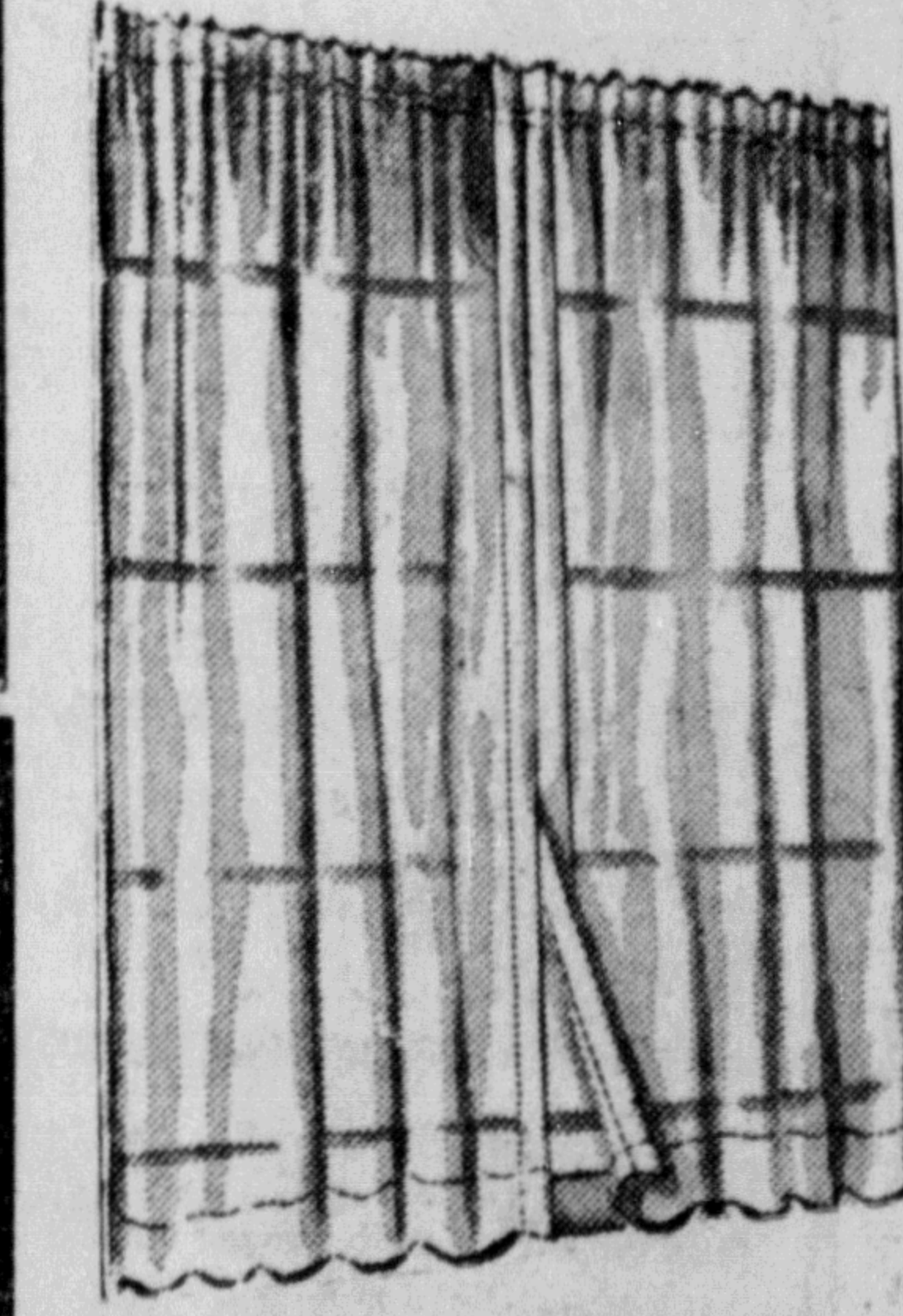
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