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## Educating Comments

RECENT remarks on our educational system by W. Harold Rea, prominent Canadian oil industrialist, merit attention for two reasons. As a visitor to Russia he had some pertinent comparisons to make between the Communist methods of teaching and ours. Also he established himself as a businessman who believes that industry should think more of promoting other centres of learning and less of raiding them.

On Soviet education, he said: "One is impressed with the Russian system whereby every child will be educated to the limit of his or her mental capacity. This stands out in contrast to our system where a good education is limited, in many cases, by the economic status of the parents. Education there is compulsory to the age of 17, whereas in Canada many leave school prematurely through a dislike of schooling or of the teacher."

"One is also impressed with the manner in which they are glorifying the educator and offering remuneration which is attracting the best brains to the teaching profession. It was apparent to me that in Russia there is a genuine interest in education and the bright scholar is looked up to and respected, whereas in our country there is evidence in some schools where a student with high academic ability is looked upon with a type of envy almost calculated to place him or her in a race apart."

On industry's responsibility in promoting education, Mr. Rea made four points.

• Support as generously as possible the capital campaigns to provide expanded and modern facilities.

• Support well considered plans for upgrading the remuneration of the teaching profession from elementary schools through to leaders of our universities, so that it will attract many of the ablest people in the country.

• Help foster and dignify the teaching profession so that it becomes more and more attractive to the young people.

• Industry can do much to serve the interests of all Canadians by keeping in mind the key problem of our Canadian universities which is the shortage of top teaching talent; hence, in exercising the greatest restraint in thoughtless raiding of our university teaching personnel. We cannot have our cake and eat it, too."

As a witness to Soviet teaching methods, Mr. Rea had his eyes and ears open, and he seems to have them open in his own country as well. Consequently he personally is able to offer a bit of education which others might well digest.

## Most Dangerous

THE more one examines the causative agent in so many fatal highway accidents across the country, the more one sees that the driver who passes on curves is the most dangerous motorist on the road.

—Brockville Recorder and Times.

## SOVIET ARMED FORCES GAIN IN MORALE AND EFFICIENCY

OTTAWA, Ont.—A director of the RCAF staff college says the Soviet armed forces are growing stronger in morale and efficiency if not in material strength.

Wing Cmdr. John Gellner, DFC, reaches this conclusion in an article entitled The Soviet Armed Forces and the Soviet State published in the current issue of The Roundel, RCAF monthly magazine. The article won first prize in the Royal Canadian Military Institute's 1956 essay competition.

Wing Cmdr. Gellner, a student of Russian military affairs, says the Soviet armed forces are being allowed to develop more freely since the death of Stalin and execution of secret police chief Lavrenti Beria in 1953.



## As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

## U.S. Pensions

THERE is a great deal of confusion, even inside the parliament of Canada, about old-age pensions paid in the United States.

These are of two kinds—either of which can be fairly compared with our universal old-age pensions in Canada.

In Canada, everybody who has lived in this country for 20 years draws the old age security of \$40 per month at age 70; and, as we all know, this \$40 is being raised to \$46 in the budget, now before Parliament.

In the United States, on the other hand, citizens may draw one of two different kinds of pensions. The first type is paid without a means test, but on the basis of the previous personal contribution by the recipient of the pension.

The second type of pension is a joint federal state "assistance allowance", which is paid to needy persons on a means-test basis, much similar to the limitations which prevail for the same type of grant in British Columbia.

THE contributory old age pension in the United States is called "Old Age and Survivors Insurance". It is administered under the Social Security Act of 1937, as amended in 1950 and 1954. It levies compulsory taxes against wage earners, farmers, self-employed people, but excludes regular doctors.

To qualify for U.S. federal pension at age 65, the insured person must have paid into the fund for a good many years. The scale of compulsory con-

Average Monthly Earnings

Earnings	Pension Payments, Per Month
\$45.00	\$30.00
100.00	55.00
150.00	68.50
200.00	78.50
250.00	88.50
300.00	98.50
350.00	108.50

Workers must pay into the fund during the entire lifetime of wage-earning work. A wife or husband of a person receiving a pension, draws an additional pension at one-half the sum paid to the husband or wife.

The total number of persons actually drawing in the United States is 8,374,453, of whom roughly half are retired workers and the remainder wives or dependents.

The trust fund which has been built up in the United States to cover these pensions greatly exceeds the amount which has been paid out.

The total receipts from the inception of the scheme, in 1937 were \$42,077,921. Interest received was \$3,917,978.

The total amount paid out to date was \$22,452,811. Administration expenses were \$49,444.

The total surplus in the U.S. fund at the present time is \$22,503,064.

In brief, the two systems of old age pensions in the two countries are radically different.

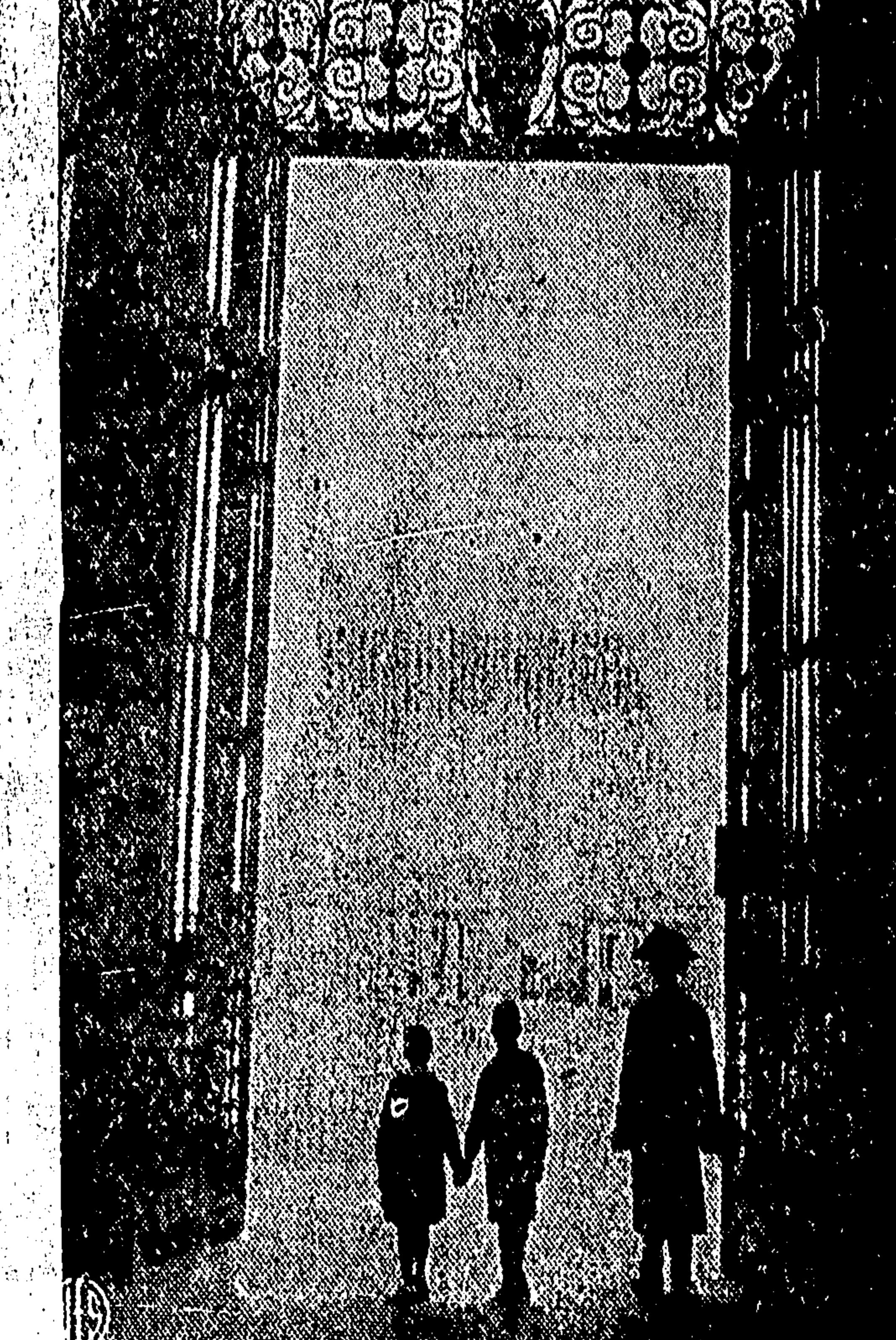
## GOOD BUSINESS

WHITBY, Ont.—Members of the International Order of Oddfellows here bought the 43-year-old town post office for use as a lodge hall last year. Now they've sold it for a satisfactory profit," says the deputy district grand master, Harold Welker.

## FAMOUS SAILOR

Admiral Lord Rodney, who died in 1702, reached captain's rank in the Royal Navy after 10 years' service.

The first minted coins are believed to have appeared in China and the Middle East about 700 B.C.



Faith in Silhouette — Sharply silhouetted against the bright sunlight behind the massive bronze doorway, this young brother and sister pause, hand in hand, upon entering St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Completing the pattern of sun and shadow, a member of the Pontifical guard, complete with cocked hat and cape, stands watch at the door.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Having just completed the process of economic stock-taking, considerable period ahead. The which is routine at the close of the first quarter of any year, Parliament Hill experts are more than a year ahead, since too many unpredictable factors can enter into any calculations for a longer period. But they believe that the present situation merits maximum confidence.

In fact, they're satisfied that the present boom can be depended upon to extend, with little or no real diminution, well into the Spring of 1958.

The experts admit that the boom may not be spread as evenly now as it once was. For example, residential building is down almost 60 percent from a year ago. The textile and farm machinery industries are showing no real signs of recovery. Car loadings, which are a good barometer of domestic business, are down about seven percent from last year. And sales to export markets are commencing to level off in volume and to drop in dollar totals as well.

But these factors are being more than offset by the bullishness which the economy is generating. Despite the large drop in home building, the construction industry as a whole is operating at a new peak of activity as a result of business expansion and large-scale engineering projects.

Furthermore, the general public remains in a strong buying mood despite all the talk about the prevailing tightness of money. Retail sales are running in average of around six percent ahead of last year—and the effect is still to be felt of the increased social security payments provided in the budget.

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## Sir Thomas Not Mellowing With Age

By ED SIMON

Canadian Press Staff Writer LONDON — A month short of his 78th birthday, Sir Thomas Beecham continues to do an effective job of demolishing any suspicions that he may be mellowing with age.

The peppery leader of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, denouncing the "cant and humbug" that foreign conductors are better than their British-born counterparts, enlivens a clutch of distinguished contemporaries to prove his point.

In an interview in The News Chronicle, Beecham concedes that in the past he has invited tion and technical excellence" foreigners "of proved distinction" to conduct the Philharmonic. In this category he names Bruno Walter, the late Wilhelm Furtwangler and Fritz Reiner.

NO BEAT

But he has a poor opinion of the men imported to lead British orchestras today.

"Some of them are incoherent in front of an English orchestra and cannot communicate their intentions or even beat time to some fields," has served as a continued incentive to normal buying habits.

On the manufacturing front, the situation appears especially sound. Latest figures showed unfilled factory orders up seven percent over a year ago.

Finally, the employment outlook is fond. At the bottom of the seasonal Winter drop, which was reached during the past month, there were 160,000 more workers in jobs than was the case a year ago. The Spring build-up thus starts from this improved level.

Altogether, the portents impress government economists

BLIND EXPERT  
VANCOUVER, B.C.—Premier W. A. C. Bennett was beaten in an impromptu bowling tournament here by a blind man, Capt. M. C. Robinson, director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Vancouver. The occasion was the opening of a new \$1,000,000 braille school which includes a swimming pool and bowling alleys.

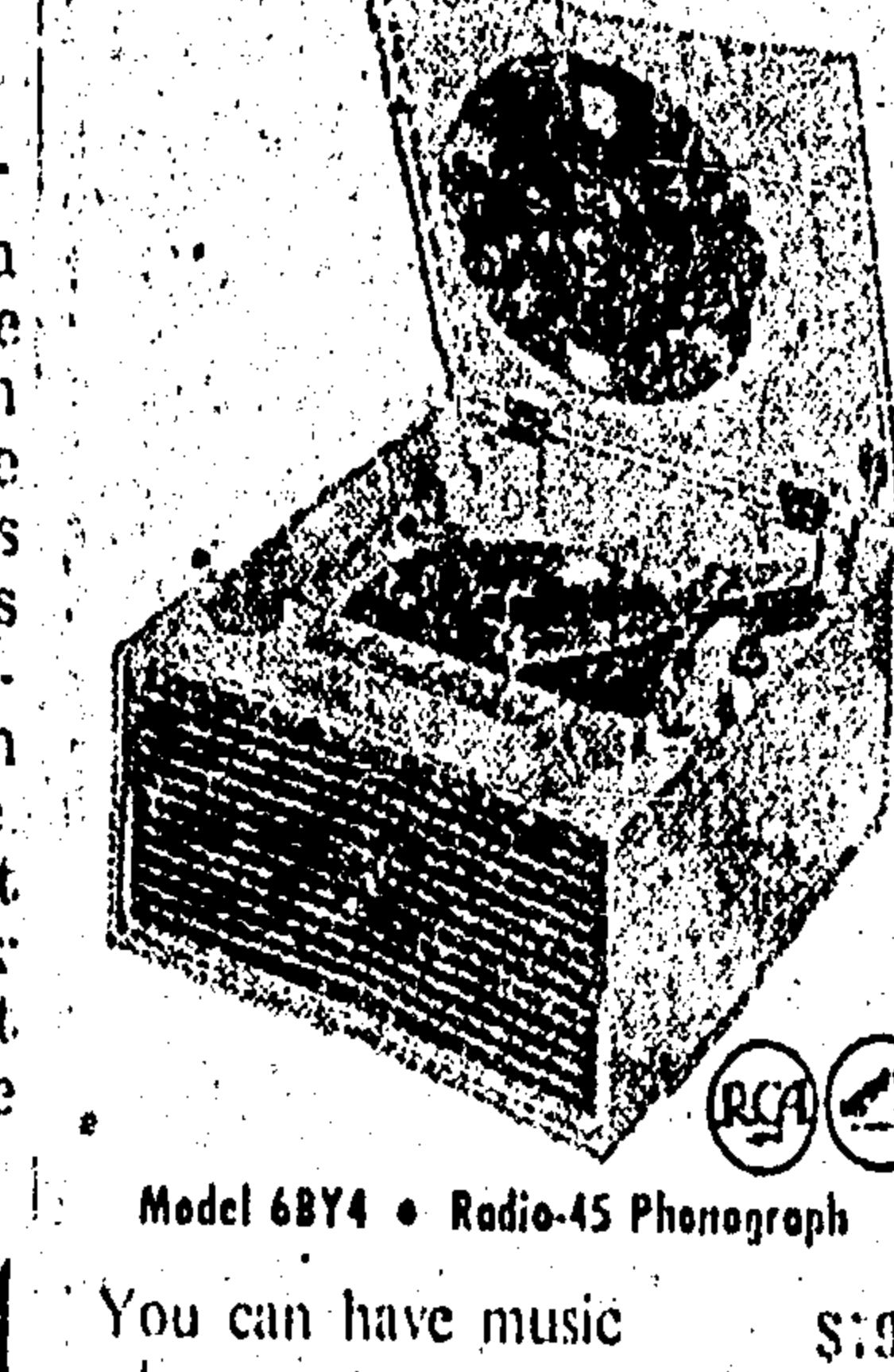
## DUCAL MANSION

Woburn Abbey, ancestral seat of the Dukes of Bedford in England, stands on the site of a Cistercian abbey.

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