Governor-General Faces Extended Term With Vigor

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—"Please, Gawdy, please come out to the rink."

The little girls' plea was irresistible. The slight, spare man put down his pen. He had been working on still another extensive tour, another speech that might stir and provoke thought; that might lead Canadians towards greater unity.

"Come on, Gawdy."

He sighed, slipped into his blue overcoat, his battered down felt hat and grey wool gloves and called to his dogs, Duff, an obedient golden retriever, and Rufus, a mischievous cocker spaniel who appears to be wondering whom he ought to nip next.

Then out to the spacious grounds of Rideau Hall.

SHORT FOR GRANDDADDY

"Gawdy" is the name affectionately pinned by his grandchildren on Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Canada's first native-born governor-general, who on Feb. 28 will complete his first five years in office.

Mr. Massey's term has been extended for another year or so, to about June, 1958. But no governor-general has had two extensions and there is a question of what the future will bring.

Whatever the future, the 70-year-old governor-general is tackling his exacting job with the same zeal and love with which he first approached it. He has covered more mileage in Canada than any of his 17 predecessors, a record 129,448 miles, and has gained at first-hand in his five years a penetrating knowledge of Canada's growth.

"I don't think we could ever develop an Elvis Presley in Canada," he once remarked to a friends. "We shirk from sensation. Our national characteristic is moderation."

CULTURAL GROWTH

"True, we haven't had the same drive in the cultural field but we are developing. It would be unwise to judge our efforts purely on patriotic grounds alone. They must be judged by the international yardstick. The theatrical ventures at Stratford, Ont., succeeded because there was no compromise. They had to be good on world standards, not simply those in Canada."

The role of governor-general is an exacting one. With Canada's role in world affairs increasing, more and more of the world figures visit Ottawa as guests at the spacious vice-regal residence in suburban Rockcliffe.

Mr. Massey has played host to Queen Mother Elizabeth, the Princess Royal, the Duke of Edinburgh, President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Nehru of India. Thousands of Canadians also have been invited.

NATIONALISTIC TREND

But he also has sensed a quickening in the growth of nationalism in Canada, a move which he prefers to call "the growth of self-reliance, self-confidence, a natural pride in ourselves."

He feels that, within the framework of moderation, this is a positive move for Canadians "that we will develop in our own quiet way, in a way that is distinctive from that of Britons and Americans."

And he has stated:

"Within the next five years, 10 years, I think that unbelievable things will happen in the country. I grope for words. But you will see even greater unity and greater self-confidence.

"In this we must not underestimate the contribution of New Canadians for they are tremendously keen. You can see that in the way New Canadian children hunger for books on Canada."

UNIFYING FORCE

Above all else, he sees the crown, "the supreme Canadian symbol," remaining as the main unifying force in Canada. As for the Commonwealth, it will grow and change but will become of increasing importance as a true symbol of the family of nations.

The crown, as a symbol, is one that can be understood by everyone, he says—by children, adults and those on the rim of civilization, the Indians and Eskimos.

Canada's sense of moderation, he believes, springs from at least two developments: The instinctive sense of compromise that has come from relations between Canada's two main races, the English and the French, and the climate.

One factor is that we are the only northern country, the only large northern country, with no hot climate in our south. I think that has definitely affected our temperament."

WORKS FULL DAY

Mr. Massey enjoys good health and he puts in a full day, from about 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. His study is his workshop where he writes and polishes his speeches, prepares dispatches to the Queen and receives his mail.

In the five years, travelling by plane, train, car, naval ship, snowmobile and dogsled, he has visited Eskimos and Indians, talked with miners a mile or so below the earth's surface, inspected the fishermen's catch and listened to farmers' problems.

He treasures letters received from some of the 300,000 school children he has spoken to. Some of them are in the centre drawer of his desk.

This attachment has probably grown from his love for his own grandchildren: Jane, 8; Evva, 7; and Susan, 5, daughters of his secretary-son, Lionel; and Jonathan, 6, and Caroline, 10, children of his other son, Hart, an architect. Jane, Evva and Susan live on the grounds of Rideau Hall and it is they who have named their grandfather "Gawdy."

HANDY RELATIVE

At times these children show a youthful disregard of the grandeur surrounding the governor-general-ship.

On the other hand, they do realize how a governor-general might come in handy at times. Jonathan was told by Mr. Massey to stop fighting with his boy friend on the rink. So Jonathan quit fighting, got off the rink and promptly started the battle again. Toward the end of the scuffle he was heard to say:

"If you hit me again, I'll get my governor-general after you."

The children love to be with their "Gawdy" but often he has to leave them. Soon he will be on the move again.

In May he will be off on a 5,000-mile trip to tour the uranium fields of Ontario's Blind River region and from there into northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan and then a swing-about to Nova Scotia.

And perhaps in September there will be another extensive tour into the tiny hamlets of the Maritimes.

SUSAN MASSEY, 5, asks her grandfather, Governor-General Vincent Massey, to come out and watch the skating on the rink at Rideau Hall while her sisters, Evva, 7, and Jane, 8, look on. This photo was taken in Mr. Massey's study a few days before he was to mark the completion of his first five years in office on February 28. The children are the daughters of Lionel Massey, the governor-general's son and secretary, and Mrs. Massey. (CP Photo).

GOVERNOR-GENERAL Vincent Massey poses in his study with his golden retriever Duff on his 70th birthday Wednesday. Mr. Massey observed the anniversary quietly with dinner with the family of his son Lionel, who is also his secretary. (CP Photo)

CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS
—by Byrne Hope Sanders

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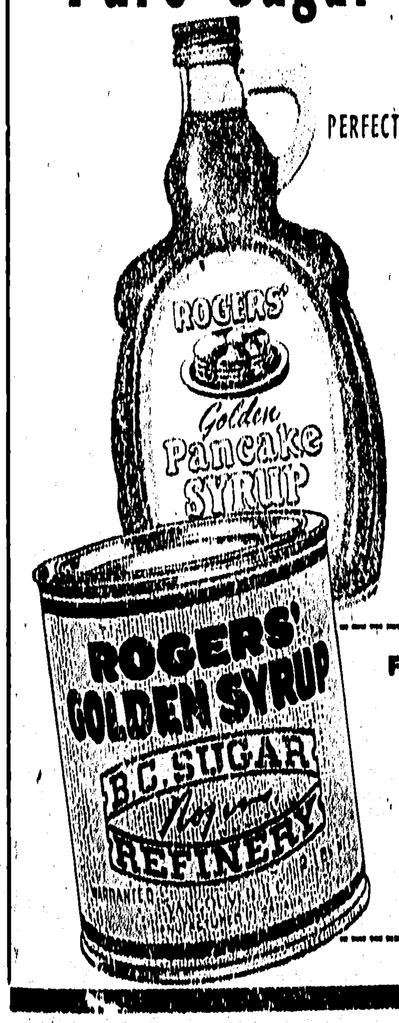

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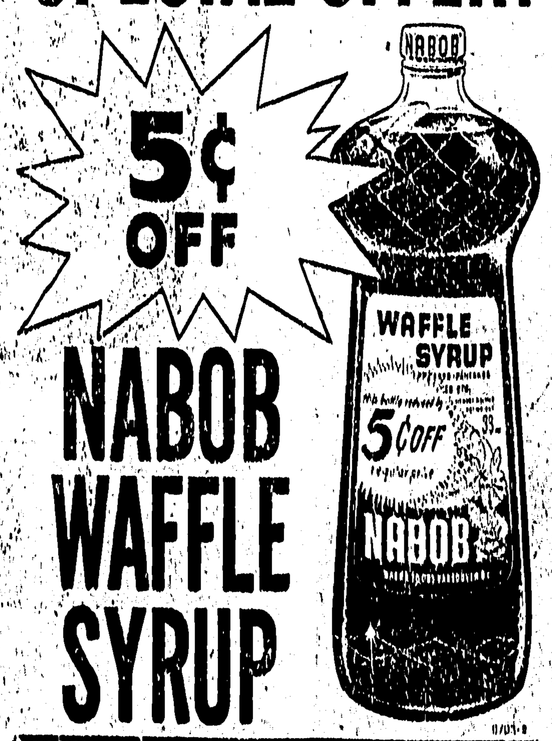

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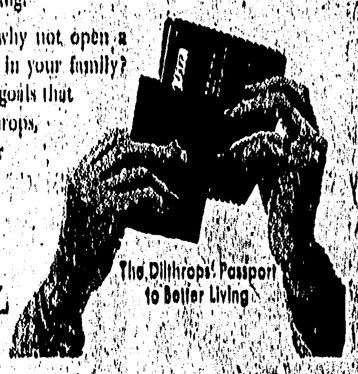

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