

Strong Personalities Have Marked Company's History

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor

Strong personalities are inevitable in the career of a company which has had such a rapid rise and expansion as that of A. V. Roe Canada Ltd.

It's president and general manager is Crawford Gordon, a rugged, restless type, sometimes described as typical of Canada's new growing crop of young executives.

He took his present position in 1951 when he was only 38 and has led the company through its diversification from a single airframe and aero-engine organization, to its present status as a holding company with nine subsidiaries engaged in a wide range of industry.

He is known as an organizer—one who delegates authority and expects results—and a man with a photographic memory.

WINNIPEG NATIVE

He is a native of Winnipeg and a graduate in commerce of Mc-

Gill University. He served with the department of munitions and supply and with the department of reconstruction and supply, 1941-1946, received the Order of the British Empire, and was recalled as co-ordinator of production, department of defence production, for a period in 1951.

In between, he was president of English Electric Company of Canada Ltd. and executive vice-president of John Inglis Co. Ltd.

Sir Roy Dobson, a director of the parent British Hawker Siddeley Group Ltd., is Roe chairman.

He started in the airplane business in 1914 as a draftsman with Allott Verdon Roe, one of the first Englishmen to fly. His sheer doggedness in pursuing what he believed to be right—in the face of opposition from the British air ministry—is credited with bringing into being the famous Lancaster bomber of the Second World War.

He is responsible for the for-

matron of Roe of Canada in 1945—the year in which he was knighted.

SIGNIFICANT FIGURE

One of the most significant figures in the Roe story is J. S. D. Tory, Toronto lawyer of Guysborough County, N.S., extraction.

He was with Sir Roy in the formation of the company and is vice-president and a director. A quiet man, to be seen unobtrusively giving advice at the directors' tables of many companies, he has figured prominently in several of the biggest Canadian industrial developments of the last few years.

He took the chairmanship of McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd. when the control of that company showed signs of moving to the United States and has led it in its recent extensive developments.

KEY EXECUTIVE

As chairman of McIntyre and vice-president of Roe he was a key figure in the action last April which saw McIntyre buy 100,000 shares, and Roe 150,000 shares, of Algoma Steel Corporation Ltd., thus apparently ensuring continuation of strong Canadian representation in the control of that company.

He is undoubtedly a key figure in Roe's present proposal to acquire control of Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Ltd., a

move which, according to Sir Roy Dobson, was made in "severe competition" with German interests.

McIntyre has also this year acquired control of Ventures Ltd. holding company with far-flung mining interests.

The late J. P. Bickell, Toronto industrialist and financier, who was chairman of Roe until his death in 1951, was also one of the early-founding group who gave support when finances—because of inability to bring money from England—were in a different stage.

FIRST PAID EMPLOYEE

Sir Thomas Sopwith, chairman of Hawker Siddeley, and a British air pioneer, is a Roe director. Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, who retired in 1953 as Canada's chief of air staff, is vice-chairman.

Fred T. Syme, vice-president and general manager of Avro Aircraft Ltd.—Roe's airplane manufacturing subsidiary—was the company's first paid employee, joining its organization even before the company was created.

Mr. Syme, a native of Hamilton and now 41, was, when only 27, wartime director of aircraft production.

In 1945, with airplane contracts being cancelled wholesale, it seemed doubtful that Sir Roy would want to proceed with his

plan to form a Canadian aircraft company.

Mr. Syme flew to England to find out. Sir Roy came back with him and establishment of the company followed.

Record Increase In Population

OTTAWA (CP)—Canada's population increased at a record rate in the first half of 1957, rising to an estimated 16,650,000 at July 1, the bureau of statistics said Monday.

Immigration accounted for more than half of a booming gain of 306,000 persons in the six-month period. Between Jan. 1 and July 1 some 175,000 immigrants arrived in Canada.

The population estimate of 16,650,000 at July 1 compares with 16,344,000 at Jan. 1; 16,081,000 at the 1946 census and 14,009,000 at the 1951 decennial census.

The 1957 half-year increase of 306,000 compares with an increase of 199,000 in the first six months of 1956; 201,000 in 1955 and 225,000 in 1954.

The bureau also said that Canada's population growth in the 12-month period from July 1, 1956, to July 1, 1957, reached a record 532,000. This rise compared with

a growth of 322,000 from July 1, 1955, to July 1, 1956, of 496,000 in the 1954-55 period and 444,000 in the 1953-54 period.

The population total of 16,650,000 at July 1 represented a gain of 569,000 compared with the 1951 census total and 2,641,000 compared with the 1951 census.

Current speculation here is that Canada's population likely will reach 17,000,000 next year. However, the vagaries of immigration make uncertain exactly when that total will be reached.

Manslaughter Charge Laid

DAY LEAD DEATH NEW KENTVILLE, N.S. (CP)—Private Michael James Gillis of Half fax, 17-year-old army reservist stationed at Camp Aldershot here, was arraigned Tuesday on a charge of manslaughter in the Aug. 15 death of Private Robert A. Ryan of Stellarton, N.S.

Magistrate H. M. Chase adjourned preliminary hearing until Aug. 26. Gillis did not plead. Ryan, 23, died in hospital of injuries after his head struck a concrete sidewalk outside a Knechtel restaurant. Police said Ryan was knocked to the ground during an argument that began inside the restaurant.



HAS MEMORIES

NEW YORK—Mrs. John McGraw, widow of the man who managed the New York Giants for 30 years, holds album of mementoes in her apartment

where she now says sadly, "I guess all I have left now is memories." Behind her is a plaque of McGraw given him in 1927 by newspapermen. He died in

1934. Mrs. McGraw is against the Giants' move to San Francisco. "It's one of the most tragic things that ever happened to me," she says. (AP Wirephoto)

TIMELY NOTES ON FUR TOPICS

The British Government has eliminated restrictions on dressed fur imports which means British buyers will have access to certain dressed furs for the first time since pre-war days. Most important categories will be dressed mink, and Alaska fur seal, and dressed and dyed Persian lamb. A fifteen percent tariff on dressed pelts will be charged by Great Britain.

Mink will be somewhat affected primarily, in the fancy shades. Such colors as blue iris, tourmaline, lutetia, and a few others will probably be imported dressed, but basic colors like pastels won't experience much of a change, if any. It is believed that United States mink dressing techniques are generally considered superior to those employed in Britain.

RUSSIAN MINK

A deparch from Moscow, Russia, states that Soviet production of ranch mink during the 1956-57 season totalled about 300,000 and this output will be stepped up to between 350,000 and 360,000 in 1957-58. This information came from the head of the Fur Ranch Breeding Department in Moscow, which states further that the vast majority of the above output is in standard mink.

A small quantity of mutations are being produced for breeding purposes only. It is estimated that it will be at least two or three years before the Russian industry will be ready to sell mutations. Mutation colors now being bred include regular pastel, Stewart pastel, American topaz, palomino, sapphire, blue iris, gun metal and Headlund white.

MINK CONSCIOUS

Mink is bred on most of the 65 fur farms in the Soviet Union. Present production has risen from a level of 3,000 in 1946. Russian ladies are becoming mink conscious, and it is believed that as the years go by, the home market will absorb at least half the production. At present there is plenty of demand but the monetary status does not permit too many women to be able to afford mink coats, or any mink apparel. If it improves, there is a consumer market for 2,000,000 pelts a year.

You will probably be wondering where Russia has been buying its mink breeding stock. Our information is that last year Russia bought 1,600 mink from Norway for breeding purposes—the great majority, mutations. The supplier in Norway was Hans Flaaten of Oslo. Three hundred mutations were also obtained in Denmark from Christian Boisen and Mark Hansen, both of Copenhagen.

SABLE CURTAIN

Next year purchases of breeding mink will all be made in Finland, and the plan is to buy 500 mutation mink there, mostly topaz. Russia, as our readers know, is the one country in the world where sable is produced, and no amount of money can buy Russian sable for export. Years ago, Dr. Leo Frank had a contract with the Russian government to supply them with silver fox, and it was his wish that sable would be given in exchange for silver fox, but the deal fell through because even the government of the Czar would not permit the live animals to be exported. Eventually Russia did import silver foxes from Norway and Sweden, and possibly nearby Helsinki, in Finland. In the years

prior to World War II, the Finns took up farming and they sent a very capable man to Prince Edward Island who became employed at McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd., and after spending a year here, he returned to Helsinki, bringing back with him 15 pairs of silver foxes. One pair was displayed in a window of the largest store in Helsinki, and he wrote us, giving us the particulars of the window, and stated that practically the whole population of that city and surrounding parts viewed the silver foxes from the Garden of the Gulf.

Among the Finnish fox fur productions, silver fox is tops. The output from ranches in 1956 being in the vicinity of 230,000 and it is expected that this year it will rise to 250,000. Silver fox is expected to be stabilized at about that figure. Blue fox production this year was about 70,000 and it is expected to rise to 100,000 in a year or two.

COULD AFFORD IT

In the days preceding World War I, when the Czars and nobles ruled Russia and most of the wealth was concentrated in their hands, silver fox was king, and the nobles lined their coats with black and silver fox skins. This accounted for the remarkable prices that Sir Charles Dalton and other early fox pioneers received for their pelts. In 1910, 33 pelts from the Dalton collection were sold by C. N. Lampson and Co., at auction in London for an average of over \$1,300 a pelt. The top price was \$210 sterling, equivalent to over \$2,500 in Canadian money.

Other exporters were the Rayner's, the Tuplin's and many smaller fur farmers.

The boom was created and live foxes sold as high as \$25,000 a pair, if proven breeders. The Dalton Company, with 20 pairs of breeders and was formed and capitalized at \$625,000, with a guarantee of 40 pups. Dozens of other companies were formed, and the boom in foxes continued with money coming in to this province by the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The outbreak of war on August 8, 1914, shattered the boom and the ranchers were compelled to sell their pup production and establish a market in the United States. The credit for this must go largely to the late W. Chesley S. McLure.

NEW BOOM

By 1918, when the war was over, a new silver fox boom commenced, with ranches springing up everywhere. Their ultimate object was the production of silver fox pelts for the Canadian and American markets. Silver fox farming continued on a profitable basis in this province until the outbreak of World War II, when the average price of silver fox pelts dropped to about \$20.

Then new mutations were in-vary, developed into an excellent market for silver fox, and the writer remembers that our company fox farm near Charlottetown sold platinum pelts at auction through the Canadian Fox Breeders Association in Montreal in 1945 at \$225 each. The previous year, we think it was, the average price was in the vicinity of \$50 per pelt. Oh, for those good old days long passed, perhaps never to return!

Britain Plans Stockpile Of New Weapons

CANBERRA (Reuters)—Britain intends to build up quickly a stockpile of nuclear and guided weapons, British Defence Minister Duncan Sandys told Australian defence planners Monday.

Sandys also said Britain is not pulling out of Asia, although she has been shouldering more than her fair share of the overseas defence burden.

Britain intends to reduce the size of her Far East forces, but at the same time will strengthen them with the most modern arms.

Under Britain's over-all defence plan, British forces will be smaller but more efficient; more mobile; better trained; better equipped; and backed by the deterrent power of nuclear armaments.

Conference sources said Sandys also made these other points in outlining defence plans at the opening of the British Australian talks:

1. Britain intends to continue using Australia's Maralinga range to test a variety of nuclear weapons.
2. If the disarmament talks are to succeed, any agreement must cover conventional as well as atomic weapons.
3. The Russian and Chinese armed forces are so big that the Western world would be powerless against them without nuclear weapons as a deterrent to aggression.
3. The fact that Britain has perfected the hydrogen bomb as well as other atomic weapons has greatly reduced the possibility of global war in the foreseeable future.

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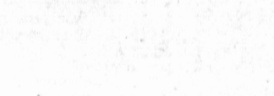
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