

Canada's Governor General No Stranger To Duty

Ottawa (CNS)—Maj. Gen. George Philips Vanier, who has been named Governor General of Canada, is the father of a Trappist monk and becomes the first Catholic to hold the high Canadian post.

The 71-year-old Montreal lawyer, soldier and diplomat, who succeeds Vincent Massey, will serve as direct representative of Queen Elizabeth who reigns as Queen of Canada and is the link which binds the various units of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Son of a French father and an Irish mother, Gen. Vanier, like Mr. Massey, is a native of Canada and is bilingual.

Announcing the appointment made by Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said it does not mean there will be a rotation of appointments between the English and French elements of the nation.

The Prime Minister also stressed that no special significance should be attached to the fact that Gen. Vanier is the first Catholic to hold the office. Mr. Diefenbaker said that in the future a governor general may be selected from other parts of the Commonwealth or the United Kingdom. The appointment is made on the recommendation of the Canadian government.

Gen. Vanier is no stranger to the duties and functions of his new office. He served as aide-de-camp to two governors general—Lord Byng and Viscount Willingdon.

The general's paternal ancestors came to Canada from Normandy in the 1600s, pioneers in New France. The general was born in Montreal on April 23, 1888, son of Phyllis Vanier, and the former Margaret Maloney, both of Montreal.

After he was graduated from Loyola College, a Jesuit institution, he received his law degree from Laval University in Montreal (now the University of Montreal). He embarked on the practice of law in 1911 in Montreal.

The general, who was in Europe with his wife visiting four of their children when his appointment was announced, has said that World War I changed completely the course of his life.

In 1915, he became a founding member of the Royal 22nd Regiment—Quebec's renowned Van Doos of both World Wars. On the battlefield, he earned special mention in military dispatches, and three decorations for valor. For leading a successful attack on a machine gun post which was doing considerable damage, he received the Military Cross. He was wounded in this action.

Later he was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order for leading an attack which captured a key village. A bar to the Military Cross—equivalent to a second decoration—was awarded to him for rallying his troops in a heavy attack and turning the tide of an assault upon the enemy.

In 1928 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and went to Geneva in a military capacity as a delegate to the preparatory disarmament commission of the League of Nations. He embarked on a diplomatic career in 1931 when Prime Minister R. B. Bennett asked him to serve as secretary to the high commissioner in London.

In 1939, the general was named Canadian Minister to France. Of this appointment, the London Daily Telegraph commented: "Vanier is a man of unflinching calm and impeccable courtesy. He conforms more to the European diplomatic than do most of Canada's representatives."

The general went to Paris in January, 1939 and took office just nine months before World War II engulfed Europe. Fifteen months later, France capitulated to the forces of Adolf Hitler. With his wife, the former Pauline Archer of Montreal, their daughter and three of their sons, the general escaped to England in a small cargo boat.

On his return to Canada, the general was named commanding officer of the Quebec Military district. Later he was assigned to the London headquarters of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's French Committee of Liberation. He accompanied Gen. de Gaulle into Algiers in 1944.

Twelve days after the liberation of Paris, August 25, 1944, Gen. Vanier returned to Canada. He continued in that post until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1953. He returned to Canada and continued an active life. He was named a director of several banks and other financial institutions, chief among which are the Bank of Montreal and the Credit Foncier Franco-Canadian.

When he was named to the post of governor general, Gen. Vanier and his wife were visiting their daughter, Therese, the wife of a London pediatrician. Their eldest son, George, is now Father Benedict, a Trappist monk stationed at Oka, Que. In Europe, the Vaniers also visited their sons, Bernard, an artist, and Jacques, who resides in France, and Michel, a student in Switzerland.

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MAJ. GEN. GEORGE VANIER

As the result of wounds in the last action, the general lost his right leg above the knee. He was returned to civilian life and learned to use an artificial leg. Despite his handicap, he asked permission to rejoin the military and Sir Arthur Curries, aware of his record, placed him as second in command of his old regiment. He then spent two years at the staff college in Camberley, England.

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Is Mental Illness Considered To Be A Hereditary Disease?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
At St. Louis University

I need some advice and don't know where to get it. I'm dating a fellow whose mother has been in a mental hospital for a number of years, and I don't know if I should break off with him now or go on dating him with the possibility of marriage later. What should I do?



As you probably know, Louise, people are confined to mental hospitals for a great variety of reasons. Unfortunately, we know all too little about the causes of mental breakdown and even less about the hereditary factors involved.

However, you are justly concerned about the fact that your friend's mother is in a hospital because if hereditary traits are involved, they may eventually affect either your partner or your children. In order to know if hereditary traits are involved, you would have to know something about the nature of the sickness and the process of heredity.

Perhaps a word on this point may be helpful. The organic relationship between successive generations by which some character of quality present in the parent cells before conception is transmitted to the offspring at the moment of conception is called heredity.

We now know that heredity is transmitted through discrete units called genes. Within each parent cell there are twenty-four pairs of elongated, microscopic bodies called chromosomes — the name refers to their strong color reactions with certain dyes.

Around or within each chromosome are numerous protein bodies called genes. Genes are the physical units of heredity. In some unknown manner they control the biochemical patterns in cells and thus effect the hereditary potentials to be transmitted.

the processes of cell division and fertilization. But the process of heredity is further complicated by what geneticists call mutation. This is an abrupt change in the nature of a gene so that it henceforth reproduces itself in a new form.

It follows that when some trait, not observable in either parent, shows up in the offspring, this may result from the combination of similar recessive genes contributed by each parent or from gene mutation. If there is no history of the trait in either parental line, it is generally assumed that mutation has occurred.

Further, hereditary transmission of traits must be distinguished from the acquisition of traits that are called congenital. Congenital traits are acquired after fertilization and cannot be transmitted to succeeding generations through heredity. For example, diseases such as tuberculosis and syphilis, that may be present at birth, are congenital not hereditary.

Genes are broadly classified as dominant or recessive. This classification is based on their capacity to produce an observable trait on an organism. Theoretically, dominant genes always produce an observable effect on the offspring. Recessive genes show up in the offspring only if they are matched with similar recessive genes contributed by the other parent.

Because they can carry traits recessively in their genes, parents with similar recessive genes can pass on traits to their children even though these traits are not apparent in the parents themselves.

A person's heredity, therefore, depends upon the type of genes present in both parental cells and upon the particular combination of genes that happen to result from

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At Belgium Meet Faith, Science Ties Urged

Louvain (RNS)—Closer co-operation between theologians and scientists was urged in a series of conclusions adopted by Pax Romana, international organization of Roman Catholic university graduates and students at the conclusion of its 13th General Assembly at Heverlee near here.

Stressing that "a basic principle of our world today" is that faith has a role in science and science in matters of faith, the assembly deplored what it said was a widespread failure to understand this truth.

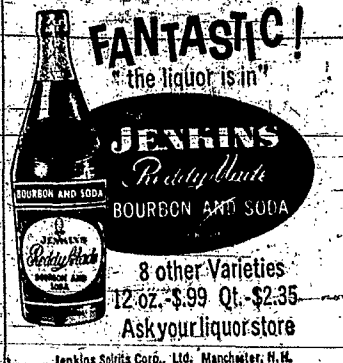
It said this was due partly to "incomprehension" by many scientists, and partly to failure among theologians to recognize that "science has thrown wide open the windows on God's world."

"The issue could be settled by closer co-operation between theologians and scientists," the assembly declared. "Scientific

London Paper Marks Century
London (RNS)—London's oldest Roman Catholic newspaper—the Catholic Times—will observe its centenary on October 1.

The paper is a year older than The Universe, which marks its centenary in December, 1960. The third of the city's trio of Catholic papers is the Catholic Herald, which was founded in 1864.

Oldest of all the Catholic periodicals is The Tablet, which is a review rather than a newspaper. Founded in 1840, it observed its centenary just as the Nazi invasion of the Low Countries began in May, 1940.



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At Moscow Fair Priest's Book Blacklisted

Moscow (RNS)—Seventy of the "controversial" books removed at Soviet insistence from the shelves of the American Exhibition here have been put back, but 33, including a book by a U.S. Roman Catholic priest, failed to reappear.

The books were removed prior to the opening of the exhibition on July 25 pending an agreement by Soviet and American officials. A compromise was reached when the Americans agreed to the erection of plastic shields to keep curious visitors from thumbing through them.

Among the books still missing—and not likely to reappear—was "Moscow Was My Parish," by Father George Bissonette, Assumptionist priest of Worcester, Mass., who was formerly chaplain to American Catholics here.

Also still absent from the shelves were a volume on Israel

and another on modern Jewish history.

Among the 33 restored books was the World Almanac, which had been among the first volumes placed on the initial Soviet "blacklist."

Prélate Dies in Argentina
Buenos Aires (CNS)—Archbishop Fermín Lafitte of Buenos Aires, who brought firm leadership to the Church out of chaos left by the Peronist persecution, collapsed and died (Aug. 8) while offering Mass at a nearby naval base.

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