

May 1951

# AA UNDER THE MAPLELEAF



CANADA Dry ... that's not a mixer, that's a fact and a new way of life for 7,251 citizens of the Dominion of Canada in 299 groups who are dry through the Twelve Steps from Detroit's neighbor city Windsor, Ontario, to the far Yukon's iced-in Whitehorse and arctic Yellowknife on Great Slave Lake. Here in the vast northern half of the whole North American continent is a proportion of AA's in the scattered population almost exactly equal to that of the United States, despite a much later AA start, and despite great handicaps of distance communications, language barriers and festive traditions older than Yankees know.

Even Nature conspires to Canada's wetness, not to a Canada dry. Three oceans touch the far-flung land, and there are lakes that are inland seas, and rampant rivers. And lonely places and open spaces

where the wee drop or the *vin petite* might comfort and solace. And miles of mellow grain whose yield is high in molten gallons to the broad acre.

But AA stands strong and secure northward from the touching point at Latitude 42 clear to Baffin Land. And from 1200 members of Vancouver, British Columbia, on "the Coast" to the 2-member Group of Weymouth the land's breadth away in Nova Scotia there is the steadfastness and pioneer courage that makes the Twelfth Step a living thing in the Dominion. In the larger cities, Intergroups and Central Committees serve wide areas, and by trial and error have worked out splendid programs for interchange of speakers, ideas, mutual aid. And in the hinterlands lumberjack, trapper, prospector and salmon fisher employ ski and kayak and amphibian plane for "intergroup

meetings" where perhaps four coffee cups will suffice the whole quorum assembled.

For the song of faith, the song of mutual service, rings in this rugged land up north. And there are singing names where these meetings come to order . . . Flin Flon, Manitoba and its North of 53 Group . . . Portage la Prairie . . . Petitodiac of New Brunswick... Ministik of Kamsack in Saskatchewan ... and Nipawin Group nearby ... Tignish on Prince Edward Island ... Mont-Joli of Quebec . . . Medicine Hat with its good medicine in Alberta . . . and not far away Red Deer Group.. British Co-

Columbia's Oroville-Osoyoo's Group ... and the camp meetings after a day's work on Powell River, B.C. ...Thunder Bay at Ontario's Port Arthur... and the folks at Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia.

Hospital cooperation throughout the Dominion is generally good, most doctors are cooperative, and several penal institutions welcome visiting Groups. Royal Canadian Mounted Police have suggested contact with AA's for several strays, including one far northern gent who compensated his two-week old home brew by dropping ice from a 10,000 year old glacier in it to give it age and tone.

AA has conquered vast spaces in Canada. The hand of understanding has spread across the wide land in faith and in fellowship. From Frontenac to Fundy there is the firm clasp of friendship that says "In this land, too, Easy does it!"