

removed, and that, in production, if instead of using a long shallow horizontal bath the wool were passed through a deep vertical bath this might be accomplished. Using this method, the research team was able to obtain an evenly treated wool. This technique, combined with an earlier discovery consisting in the use of a simple solution of chlorine in water instead of acidified sodium hypochlorite for the necessary chlorination of the wool, provided the basis for the new process.

#### Equipment developed

The final step was the development of equipment to execute the process satisfactorily on a production basis. The result



*Kroy's versatile machine is compact and simple to operate: it processes faster and cheaper than conventional machines.*

is a new deep immersion machine designed and built by Kroy. Its outstanding characteristic is the uniformity of the processed material — the key to successful treatment, with a minimum amount of chemical damage to the wool fibre. The machine can replace the first two stages of the conventional five-stage operation necessary for the process for attaining full machine washability. Principal financial savings are in lower chemical and labour costs and the unit takes up less floor space than equipment currently in use.

#### International interest

The first commercial prototype machine was installed in Kroy's Toronto plant where it has performed with complete satisfaction. Last year, licences were signed up and machines installed in the

United States and Australia, and this year, it is expected that machines will be sold to wool combers in England, Switzerland and Italy. Strong interest has also been shown in many other countries including New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, France and Japan (the Japanese are the largest wool users *per capita* in the world). Kroy has also entered into an agreement with the International Wool Secretariat (IWS), funded by the world's wool growers, and a machine has been installed at their Technical Centre in Ilkley, England, to further develop its use throughout the world. Kroy and the IWS are co-operating in the installation of machines and in supplying technical service and quality control back-up.

*(Article by Joan Powers Rickerd in Science Dimension 1980/3.)*

#### Gold coin wins share of market

Canada's gold maple leaf coin has been on the market for one year and has won a secure position in the world's bullion coin markets with sales of nearly two million coins since September 1979.

Yvon Gariepy, master of the Royal Canadian Mint, said the maple leaf "has won an important share of the world bullion coin trade in its first year, a respectable accomplishment in view of the fact that it is a newcomer in competition with well-established, widely known coins".

Europeans have been the major buyers of the Canadian coins, accounting for 50 per cent of total sales, with sales in the United States coming in at 36 per cent and Canadian sales at 14 per cent.

Although gold markets, after a fast start last October, have been only moderately active in the period from the 1980 first quarter until recently, Mr. Gariepy said that investors have continued to purchase the gold maple leaf coin in substantial quantities.

"Now that the market appears to be warming up again, we would hope for an even higher level of sales in the next few months," he said.

The Mint continues to broaden its distribution system, particularly in the United States where, unlike Europe, a highly complex retail system exists. A network of more than 1,200 coin and bullion dealers has been established and dealer listings are now tagged onto maple leaf advertising in the major United

States markets.

The maple leaf program called for a maximum of five million coins to be minted and sold during a three-year period with a possible extension to be determined by the federal government, following an evaluation of the results.

#### Veterans Affairs minister dies

Daniel MacDonald, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, died in hospital of heart failure, October 1.

Mr. MacDonald, 62, was born in Bothwell, Prince Edward Island and was a farmer and war veteran who lost an arm and a leg as a sergeant in the Canadian Army in which he served from 1940 to 1945.

He represented the riding of 1st Kings in the P.E.I. Legislature from 1962 to 1972, from 1966 onward as Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Then he made the switch to federal politics and captured the Cardigan seat in the House of Commons.

He was appointed to the Veterans Affairs portfolio that year and held the post until 1979, when he lost his seat in the May federal election. He regained his seat in the election this past February and was again named to the Veterans Affairs portfolio.

Prime Minister Trudeau, who learned of the death while in a cabinet meeting, expressed his sorrow at losing a colleague whom he described as "a great human being".

Mr. MacDonald is survived by his wife, four sons and three daughters.



*Daniel MacDonald*