

News briefs

The federal government recently held the first of six two-day opportunity shows called CONTACT 81 which will be held across Canada during 1981. The shows will bring together major Canadian prime contractors with small- and medium-sized industrial companies so that they will learn first hand of the sub-contracting opportunities available from manufacturing companies that serve as major suppliers to the federal government.

Canada has signed an agreement with Japan for reciprocal testing of electrical products such as frypans, kettles, irons and refrigerators. Under the agreement, Canadian goods will be tested in Canada for compliance with Japanese standards. Japan will similarly test its goods by Canadian standards.

The buoyant gold market of the last two years has created a boom business condition for the Canadian gold mining industry, says analyst D.R. James of Winnipeg. He said he expects a more subdued market for gold bullion after the volatile market of 1979-80 and views it as a "constructive environment for the Canadian gold group which is aggressively pursuing corporate development projects with its enhanced cash flow".

John P. Lewis, Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) visited Canada recently at the invitation of President of the Canadian International Development Agency Marcel Massé. During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Lewis held discussions on CIDA aid mechanisms, development policies for the 1980s and various aspects of North-South relations. DAC was formed in 1961 to provide a meeting place where the 18 OECD members periodically review together both the



About 95 hardy souls took the icy plunge into the St. Mary's River in the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, annual Bon Soo polar bear swim. Water was slightly above freezing and the air temperature was about -10 degrees celsius.

amount and the nature of their contributions to developing countries.

Following increases in January, the federal government has decreased the levies it charges on export crude oil. Effective immediately until further notice, its levy on heavy crude oil of Lloydminster and Wainwright-Vikings-Kinsella blends will decline to \$21.51 a barrel from \$23.21, which came into effect January 1. For most other designated heavy crude oils, the tax dropped to \$23.72 a barrel from \$25.43. For light crude oil and condensate, the levy was reduced to \$31.20 a barrel from \$34.70.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of a financing agreement providing up to \$12 million (U.S.) to support the \$28.5-million (U.S.) sale of an offshore drilling rig by Les Chantiers Davie Limitée (Davie) of Lauzon, Quebec, to Global Marine Drilling Company of Houston, Texas, U.S. The rig, the fifth of eight being built for Global Marine Drilling by Davie, is a mobile self-contained drilling platform that rises on hydraulic legs from the ocean floor. It will be primarily used in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and natural gas exploration drilling.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has outlined measures aimed at phasing out some 2,4-D herbicide products. Last

October, Mr. Whelan announced that Agriculture Canada scientists had discovered that some types of the popular weedkiller were contaminated with dioxins.

Federal Commerce and Navigation Limited of Montreal, a privately owned shipping company with world-wide interests, plans to invest \$100 million in Abitibi-Price Inc. of Toronto. The acquisition would ultimately represent a 20 per cent interest in the world's largest newsprint maker. It will be Fednav's biggest investment outside the shipping industry.

A payout of close to \$235 million is forecast for the 1980-81 federal-provincial crop insurance program. The record payout is due largely to last year's drought in western Canada. About 114,000 farmers purchased crop insurance this year, compared to about 109,000 in 1979-80. Total premiums amounted to more than \$200 million.

Ontario Premier William Davis has called a provincial election for March 19. Mr. Davis, whose Conservatives hold 58 seats in the 125-seat Legislature, has been premier for ten years. The Ontario Liberal Party holds 34 seats in the Legislature, while the New Democratic Party have 33.

Labour Minister Gerald Regan has announced that funds totalling \$303,000 will be available in 1981-82 to independent unions not affiliated to a central labour organization and to individuals under Labour Canada's financial assistance program for labour education. The continuing program is designed primarily to enable union officers and members of labour organizations, to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the Canada's labour movement.

The Bank of Montreal plans to build a 25-storey provincial headquarters building in Winnipeg. Construction on the \$10-million building is to begin in 1981 with completion in 1983.

Bernie Galbraith thinks people will say he is "smarter than he looks" after becoming Canada's first "Superbrain" by outwitting more than 15,000 entries in a contest sponsored by the Mensa organization. Galbraith, a 37-year-old education supervisor from Edmonton, scoured through quiz books for months to prepare for the two-hour final contest of 200 questions. Galbraith won a two-week paid vacation to Greece for winning the title.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticario de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.