

## PARCEL POST TO CHINA RESUMED

Effective immediately, the Canada Post Office is resuming parcel-post service to the People's Republic of China. The move to reinstate the postal service follows the recent opening of diplomatic relations between the Chinese and Canadian Governments.

Parcel post to China was suspended 22 years ago, and, though letter-mail services were later restored, there was no facility at that time for sending dutiable items of any kind in this category of mail.

With the resumption of parcel-post service, there is also the new small-packets service by means of which small dutiable items can be sent in the letter-mail category with restrictions similar to those applying in the parcel-post category. An export permit is required to export any goods by post, exceeding \$25 in value, to the People's Republic of China. If goods do not exceed \$25 in value, items must be clearly marked by the sender "Gift exported under the authority of General Export Permit No. Ex. 1". All articles accepted for importation by this means are restricted to gifts for personal use.

## NEW SHIPPING LINE

Canada's newest shipping firm - The Canadian City Line - recently christened its first ship in the Port of Montreal. The vessel, formerly the *City of Glasgow*, now becomes the *City of Ottawa*.

Further additions to the fleet are the *City of Sydney*, renamed the *City of Montreal* in July, and the *City of Eastborne*, renamed the *City of Toronto* this month.

These ships, with their distinctive livery - a red funnel with a red maple leaf on a white diamond - will trade between Canada and India, Pakistan and Ceylon and between Canada and South and East Africa.

The CCL is a joint venture of the Ellerman & Bucknall Steamship Company, a principal member of the Ellerman Group, and McLean Kennedy of Montreal, their agents.

## GUARANTEED INCOME EXPERIMENTS

A new federal program of funding for provincial guaranteed income experiments was announced last month by Mr. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A total of \$5 million will be made available in the coming fiscal year, and this amount can be supplemented to the extent that there are savings for social assistance payments under the Canada Assistance Plan. The federal contribution will cover up to 75 per cent of project costs.

Mr. Munro indicated that the White Paper on Income Security for Canadians, issued in November 1970, supported the idea of the guaranteed income,

and that current Government policy gave effect to it in two areas - income security for the aged and for families.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement for the aged represents a major use of the guaranteed-income technique, and provides a point of departure for the future extension of the guaranteed-income approach to people who are normally not in the labour force, but who for some reason have had insufficient social insurance protection. Parliament has already legislated the White Paper proposals for improvements in the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

The proposed Family Income Security Plan (FISP), now before Parliament, represents a second step in providing guaranteed income. Higher benefits will be paid to low-income families, including not only families on assistance but those of low-income workers. This provides a point of departure for the future in the development of the guaranteed-income approach for people in the labour force.

Mr. Munro also indicated, however, that the cost of a comprehensive guaranteed income was found by the Government to have been too great for immediate implementation, and that there were still unresolved questions about its social and economic effects, as well as its administrative implications.

The value of experimentation in this field was, however, advocated in the White Paper and the new funding is intended to implement this.

Mr. Munro said the purpose of experimenting would be to explore the implications of guaranteed annual schemes for work incentive, productivity, minimum wage levels, family structure, social services, administration, costs and any other factors that are of central interest.

These experiments represent a new dimension, Mr. Munro emphasized, in federal-provincial efforts to explore how social assistance policies can be made more effective.

## MAMMOTH TRADE SHOW

The 1972 Canadian Furniture Mart will be held from January 9 to 14 in the Automotive, Coliseum and Industry Buildings, Exhibition Park, Toronto. Canada's largest annual trade show, it is the national market place of the \$1.25-billion Canadian retail furniture industry.

Since its beginning in 1949, the Canadian Furniture Mart has been an essential part of the home furnishings industry in Canada, with a very active involvement in the merchandising of Canadian-made furniture and home furnishings.

For many years, through its public days and through its promotion to all types of consumer media, the Mart has been a pioneer in making the Canadian consumer aware of the quality, design and value of Canadian furniture.