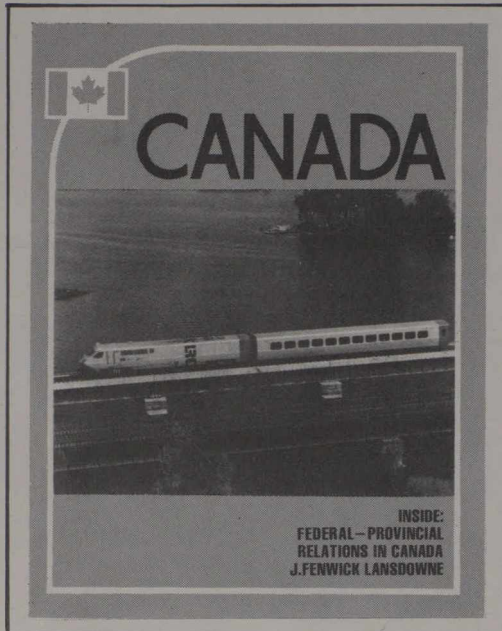


CANADA

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Our Covers:

Front: *The latest innovation in trains—the LRC—on a test run in Canada.*

Back: *Audubon's Warbler by J. Fenwick Lansdowne*

Articles

| | |
|---|-------|
| Federal Provincial Relations in Canada: Quebec in the Canadian Federation | 3 |
| Canada's Economic Prospects Moving in the Right Direction | 7 |
| J. Fenwick Lansdowne—Canadian Wildlife Artist | 9 |
| Tomorrow's Train Today | 13 |
| Canadian Calves for Kaira Cooperative | 14 |
| The Buffalo 5D—A Proven Performer | 15 |
| Canadian Views on Nuclear Disarmament, Proliferation and Tests. | 16 |
| Delhi Diary | 18-19 |

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New Immigration Legislation

On August 5, 1977 Canada's new Immigration Act received Royal Assent. The new Act and its accompanying regulations will be proclaimed on April 10, 1978.

The new Act establishes principles which will govern all Canadian immigration policy: non-discrimination; family reunion; compassion for refugees; and attainment of the economic, social, demographic and cultural goals of Canada. The Act will link the immigration movement to Canada more closely to Canada's population and labour market needs, and provides for the establishment of annual "levels" of immigration. These levels, established in consultation with the Canadian provinces, will be an annual forecast of the number of immigrants Canada can absorb. The annual "level" will be a global limit not a country-by-country quota.

The new Act provides for the selection of immigrants under three admissible classes: a family class consisting of persons sponsored by relatives in Canada; refugees; and independent and other applicants who apply on their own initiative or with the assistance of relatives in Canada.

Except for refugees, retired persons, and members of the family class, applicants will be assessed against a detailed point system based on education, vocational training, experience, prospects for employment, pre-arranged employment, destination in Canada, age, knowledge of Canada's two official languages—English and French, personal suitability and the presence of relatives in Canada.

The new Immigration Regulations widen the range of persons that may be sponsored in one important respect. Canadian citizens will, in future, be able to sponsor parents of any age. The old Immigration Regulations normally required parents to be sixty years of age or over before they were eligible for sponsorship by a citizen or permanent resident of Canada. The sponsorships rights of permanent residents in respect of parents will remain largely the same as under the old Regulations.

The new Immigration Act and Regulations also alter some of the requirements for persons proceeding to Canada on a temporary basis. Visitors who enter Canada will not be able to change status in Canada. Visitors intending to study or work temporarily in Canada, as of April 10, have to obtain student and employment authorizations abroad before they will be admitted. Persons from designated countries intending to visit Canada for three months or more will require a medical examination.

In Canada, immigration is a subject of shared jurisdiction between the provincial governments and the federal government. The Government of the Province of Quebec and the Government of Canada recently signed an agreement by which the province will participate jointly in the selection of persons who wish to settle in Quebec. It is expected that this agreement will be implemented later this year. Agreements have also been signed recently with the provinces of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.