

## HBC STORY TOLD IN SILVER

A unique silver centrepiece candelabrum of considerable Canadian historical importance has been acquired by the National Museum of Man. This elegant piece of silver was presented to John Henry Pelly in 1824 by the Hudson's Bay Company "for his great and important exertions in the service of the company". At the time of its presentation, it was valued at 500 guineas.

Pelly, who was a governor of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1822 until his death 30 years later, had just the year before concluded the complicated negotiations for amalgamation of his company with the North West Company.

The candelabrum is stamped with the mark of William Edwards, Hallmark London on each one of the 14 separate pieces. Engravings mark two sides of the tripod base, with the arms of the Hudson's Bay Company and the crest of the Pelly family. On the third side the presentation inscription is recorded. The piece stands 20¾ inches high and weighs 281 ounces.

John Pelly is remembered as one of the most energetic HBC governors. Under his direction, a heroic attempt to discover the North-West Passage was organized. Geographers are indebted to this expedition for completing the tracing of the north of America.

Several places in Canada have been named after Pelly, notably the town of Pelly in western Manitoba (founded in 1824 as Fort Pelly), Pelly Lake on Back River in the Northwest Territories, and Pelly Islet in Victoria Harbour in British Columbia.

The presentation piece serves a dual purpose —

as a candelabrum when the tulip-shaped candleholders are used and as an epergne when the slightly concave dishes are in place.

Rarely can such a large and important piece of historical silver be purchased in such fine condition. It has been in the Pelly family continuously since it was presented to Governor John Pelly in 1824.



*The Pelly epergne-candelabrum, now in the National Museum of Man, is shown here as a centrepiece. The shallow bowls are interchangeable with candle sockets.*

## CANADA-SOVIET SCIENCE AGREEMENT

*On February 4, the day following his return from a nine-day visit to the U.S.S.R., the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, tabled in the House of Commons copies of an agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union concerning co-operation in the industrial application of science and technology, the protocol of the first meeting of the Canadian-Soviet Mixed Commission, and the communiqué issued at the end of those talks.*

*Mr. Pepin's statement to the House follows:*

I had the honour of leading the Canadian delegation composed of civil servants and businessmen. The purpose of this visit was to sign the agreement referred to, and to hold the first meeting of the Canadian-Soviet Mixed Commission set up under the agreement.

We were greeted warmly, our discussions were constructive, and everything seems to indicate that they will lead to mutual benefits.

The agreement aims at encouraging co-operation between the two countries in the field of industrial science and technology. That co-operation could take the form of exchanges of information, and visits of businessmen and experts. It could also lead to licensing agreements in specific areas of technology.

It might lead to all kinds of "joint ventures". I suggest it will also lead to increases in two-way trade between the two countries.

### WORKING GROUPS SET UP

Numerous meetings were held in Moscow between members of the Canadian delegation and their opposite numbers in various industrial and research sectors of the Soviet administration. These discussions identified a considerable range of subjects of mutual interest to the two countries. As a result, six working groups have been established in order to further identify prospects for mutually beneficial ex-