

## Commercial Products

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ciency and bulk sales, the same quantity is sold profitably for 5 cents.

### Molybdenum sales

Commercial Products began selling molybdenum-99 in 1974. This isotope has replaced many of the isotopes previously used in nuclear medicine, and CP is now the world's largest producer, making an important contribution to medical diagnostic techniques. Shipments of bulk isotopes from CP have increased dramatically since 1973, with revenue growing sixfold in four years despite increasing competition from world-wide organizations.

In 1966, CP built a mobile laboratory that included an antimony neutron source. In 1970, a revolutionary new low-power nuclear reactor, called "Slowpoke", was installed at Tunney's Pasture. This reactor resulted from joint CRNL-CP co-operation. The first commercial unit was installed in June 1971 at the University of Toronto. Five such reactors have been installed in Canada, and there is active interest in several more on the part of other countries.

Since the early days, there had been equal emphasis on research and on the sale of products. Examples of these research projects are irradiated wood impregnated with monomers; the Maple power sources, which are still in use at Brockville for a navigational aid, and the weather station at Resolute Bay; radiation-resistant lubricants; and X-ray fluorescence. In 1973 there was a change from the functional organization to a product-oriented organization and the research missions at CP were dropped in favour of a strictly commercial approach. Today the three product groups — medical, industrial and isotope — have their own development,

production and marketing staffs and are supported by the administration and finance divisions.

In 1964, with business booming (a record year, with a profit of nearly \$900,000, and some 300,000 patients a year being treated on AECL cancer therapy units), the manufacturing group moved to its present location at South March, near Ottawa. The administration, finance and marketing groups followed in 1968, and in 1972 the new cobalt-60 building was occupied. The cobalt-60 cells in this building were required to accommodate the millions of *curies* becoming available from the Pickering power reactors and the growing industrial market for gamma-sterilization equipment. Plans had been made to move all CP facilities to South March, but the isotope group remains in the old building at Tunney's Pasture, making an increasingly significant contribution to CP's profits with the production of molybdenum-99, carbon-14, iodine-125 and -131, and the other isotope-related products and services.

In 1963, the efforts of Roy Errington, the founder of the division, were recog-

nized when he was made the vice-president of Commercial Products. He retired in 1974 and his place was taken by Archie Aikin, who had served at the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment and at Chalk River. When Dr. Aikin moved to head office about six months later, John Beddoes, a newcomer to AECL, became the third vice-president in charge of Commercial Products.

Mr. Beddoes has stated the role and objectives of Commercial Products as "a business enterprise supplying both domestic and worldwide markets with products and services based on the application of nuclear-energy technology to radioisotopes, radiation equipment and related product areas...."

The move towards accelerator production and the necessity to absorb new technology has required a major effort on the part of CP, though throughout its history there have only been six years that did not show a profit. Commercial Products ends fiscal year 1976-77 with sales revenues in excess of \$20 million, unfilled orders of nearly \$30 million and a staff of about 600.

## News briefs

■ The population of Canada at June 1, 1976 was 22,992,604, an increase of 6.6 per cent or 1,424,693 from that of the previous census in 1971. Alberta and British Columbia recorded the largest growth rates at 12.9 per cent each. Ontario's growth was next in line at 7.3 per cent. The Calgary census metropolitan area showed the greatest increase at 16.5 per cent with Kitchener census metropolitan area following at 14.1 per cent. The Toronto census metropolitan area became the largest in Canada, with a population of 2,803,101, some 7.7 per cent more than in 1971, while Montreal CMA was very close behind at 2,802,485, showing a growth of 2.7 per cent since 1971.

■ Ontario Premier Davis, who had promised to keep the national unity issue out of the Ontario provincial election campaign, says he wants to remain premier so he can tell Quebecers as leader of a powerful province that they should vote against separation. The election takes place on June 9.

■ The Federal Government proposes to spend up to \$125 million over the next three years to help improve transportation services in the four Atlantic provinces. The proposed three-part program, which will be subject to formal agreement with the provincial governments concerned, is designed to upgrade the primary highway network, to improve passenger transportation, and to rationalize freight and passenger subsidy payments within New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

■ The Institute for International Co-operation of the University of Ottawa is holding a study session on socio-cultural development in Benin from July 1-31. Courses will be given in French at Benin's national university.

■ Canada has agreed to contribute \$447.9 million over the next three years to the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank affiliate.

■ Quebec is getting the largest single grant from the \$70 million in extra federal job-making funds announced in the May budget for a total allocation of \$36,173,000 in the Canada Works program.

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