

News briefs

Dr. Bernard Belleau of Montreal's McGill University has made a major contribution towards the discovery of butorphanol tartrate, a new non-addictive pain-killer which will be sold next November in Canada under the brand name of Stadol by the Bristol-Myers Laboratories. Stadol is expected to replace addictive painkillers such as morphine and demerol in relieving the pain of cancer patients, persons recovering from surgery and chronic pain sufferers. Dr. Belleau was recently awarded the \$15,000-Marie-Victorin Prize for science by Quebec's Minister of Cultural Affairs.

The Public Archives has acquired a collection of addresses presented to the Earl of Dufferin during his tenure as Governor General of Canada in the nineteenth century. Among the statements and speeches made to the earl are those by provinces, societies, universities, and Indian nations from Nova Scotia to Rupert's Land, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

Expenditures on education in 1975-76 totalled \$13 billion, equivalent to 7.9 per cent of gross national product compared with \$11 billion (7.5 per cent of GNP) in 1974-75. The increase occurred despite declining elementary enrolment, reflecting growth at the more costly secondary and post-secondary levels, along with inflation. Government education spending amounted to \$12 billion (\$10.1 billion in 1974-75), and covered 92.5 per cent of the education bill. These expenditures absorbed 16.7 per cent of the budgets of the three levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal), down marginally from 17 per cent in 1974-75.

The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, formed nine years ago by Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories in partnership with

the Federal Government, has announced a \$4.5-million sale of whitefish to Poland, the largest single sale ever made by the corporation.

Dr. Robert M. Taylor of Toronto, former executive director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and executive vice-president of the Canadian Cancer Society until last year, has been awarded the American Cancer Society's Distinguished Service Award. The award was in recognition of Dr. Taylor's "fervent humanitarianism which made the quality of survival a vital element in his assessment of medical progress".

Firestone Canada Inc. will recall all its steel-belted radial 500 and TPC tires sold in Canada. The voluntary recall, like one being carried out in the United States, may involve as many as 600,000 tires produced in 1975 and 1976. Tests conducted in the U.S. showed serious defects believed to have caused several accidents there.

A new inventory listing almost all Canadian agricultural research projects was published recently. Anyone interested in obtaining the information can call Agriculture Canada in Ottawa — (613) 995-9071 — for a computer print-out of appropriate sections of the 480-page catalogue.

A Government working paper on reforms to the 27-year-old Indian Act suggests that Indian women who marry non-Indians should not lose their Indian status, and that children of mixed marriages should be entitled to Indian status. The proposals, which may be altered after reaction from Indian bands, attempt to eliminate discrimination against Indian women.

Bobby Orr, whose damaged knees have thwarted his attempts to return to hockey after a 20-month rest, announced his resignation from the Chicago Black Hawks November 7. Orr, a native of Parry Sound, Ontario, will continue with the club in a management position. Said team president William Wirtz, "Bobby Orr has made legendary contributions to the game of hockey. This is a sad occasion, a big loss."

The Salvation Army and its Canadian leader, Gen. Arnold Brown, were presented recently with the 1977 Victor Gollancz Award for service to humanity. Gen. Brown accepted the award in London, England from Earl Mountbatten of Burma. The award, given annually in memory of the publisher Victor Gollancz,

goes to the person or organization considered to have made "the greatest impact in any one year in the fight against world poverty".

As much as 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel may have been spilled into the Beaufort Sea near Tuktoyaktuk harbour recently. "The implications of the spilled fuel in the environment [from a supply ship for the CanMar drilling fleet] will likely be minimal," said Minister of Northern Affairs Hugh Faulkner. "The substance is light diesel fuel which would normally evaporate from the surface of the water. My officers have been monitoring this incident and it is anticipated that the fuel will evaporate during spring breakup."

Arrangements have been concluded for the financing of a sale by Dominion Bridge Company Ltd., of Montreal, of a \$20-million urea plant for Les Usines D'Engrais Chimiques de Tamatave (Ze-ReN) of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar. Financing was arranged by the Export Development Corporation and a consortium of banks led by Equator Bank and including the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal, the First Boston National Bank and Chase Manhattan.

The Royal Bank has announced plans to establish a wholly-owned merchant bank in London, England that will be operational in 1979. The facility will have a capital of £5 million.

Employment increased in October and Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8.2 per cent from 8.5 per cent in September. The rate in October 1977 was 8.3 per cent.

Preliminary estimates indicate that from January to September 1978 farmers' total cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$8,583 million, compared with \$7,507.1 million realized during the same period of 1977.

The annual Canadian Ski Marathon, perhaps the world's longest cross-country ski tour, will be held February 17 to 18 from Lachute to Cantley in Quebec. The trail is 160 km (100 miles) long, divided into 16-km (ten-mile) sections. As in previous years, there will be *Coureur de Bois* awards: a bronze medal for skiing 160 km; a silver medal for skiing 160 km with a 5.4 kg (12-pound) rucksack; and a gold medal for skiing 160 km with a 5.4 kg rucksack and camping out overnight. For details write Canadian Ski Marathon, P.O. Box 315 Station "A", Ottawa, Ontario.

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