

CANADA IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The pouring of a gold bar — the culmination of operations at Whim Creek's Haveluck Mine at Meekatharra.

In 1885 and the years immediately following, the Canadian parliament voted the sum of \$10,000 for "commercial agencies." This annual allocation was to be used, explained the Minister of Finance in the supply debate in 1886 "to establish agencies at points with which trade can be cultivated, and to send out gentlemen with the capabilities of this country to cultivate trade abroad." The agents were mostly businessmen who, in return for their part-time services accepted an honorarium of \$250 per annum. The first full time salaried agent, however, was sent to Australia, in 1895. In this publication, "Canada in Western Australia" produced to mark the opening of the Canadian Consulate General in Perth, we give you some background to the development of Canadian representation in Australia and outline projects being undertaken by Canadian firms in the West.

The major decision to establish a Consulate General in Western Australia stemmed from a visit by Canada's Minister for Trade, the Honourable Ed Lumley in May 1980. Speaking to Australian and Canadian businessmen during his visit to Perth, the Minister said, "We are watching with interest your plans for further developing uranium, nickel, iron ore and

aluminium. We have many parallel developments in Canada and we feel that we have the potential to work with you in sharing technology and equipment. This could be done on a direct sales basis or through licensing/joint ventures and other co-operative agreements. Clearly, the tremendous resource developments planned and under way in Western Australia will provide numerous opportunities for expanding your industrial base. Given your human and financial limitations, we assume you will want to concentrate on those areas providing the greatest long-term benefit and we will encourage Canadian firms to explore technology transfers, joint ventures and other investment opportunities."

Last year trade missions from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Alberta visited Perth. In fact, Canada has recently sent more trade missions to Western Australia than has any country currently having resident commercial representation.

Perth has become a major focus in the global economic strategies of the world's leading businesses, and Canada's Consulate General will ensure that Canada is part of this exciting new frontier.