

Electricity production and consumption rise

Electricity production in Canada rose 5 per cent to 352,304 gigawatt hours (GWh) in 1979 based on increased exports to the United States and a 2.1 per cent rise in Canadian consumption, according to a recent report of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. A gigawatt hour equals 1,000,000 kilowatt hours.

Electric Power in Canada, an annual survey of Canadian power development, noted that hydro power accounted for 69 per cent of all generation; conventional thermal, 21.6 per cent and nuclear, 9.4 per cent. Output from nuclear plants was up 13 per cent over 1978 and provided over 30 per cent of all generation in Ontario, the report said.

Total installed generating capacity was 77,072 megawatts (MW) at the close of 1979, up 3,154 MW or 4.3 per cent from a year earlier. Preliminary figures showed net additions of 2,092 MW hydro, 1,062 MW conventional thermal and no additions for the year in nuclear capacity. A megawatt equals 1,000 kilowatts.

Of the 2.1 per cent rise in domestic consumption, most of it was attributable to the residential and commercial sectors rather than the industrial sector.

Canada exported 31,378 GWh of electricity to the United States and imported 1,792 GWh in 1979 for a 51.8 per cent increase in net exports to 29,586 GWh, accounting for 8.4 per cent of net generation by Canada during the year. Exports from Quebec increased more than five fold.

The survey reports that forecasts by electric companies indicate that by the year 2000 total Canadian production (excluding industrial establishments) will reach 788,400 GWh, approximately two-and-a-half times the estimated 1980 production.

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News briefs

The federal government has made a \$30,000 contribution to the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) in support of its Canadian University Student Exchange Program. Under the terms of the program, the federal contribution will be used to help defray a portion of travel costs for interprovincial exchanges of university students from across Canada. A total of 260 students will take part in the CBIE exchange program.

Two commemorative coins, a silver dollar and \$100 gold piece, will be struck in 1981, the Royal Canadian Mint has announced. The \$100 gold coin will mark Parliament's decision last July 1 to adopt *O Canada* as the national anthem. About 250,000 of the coins will be struck for sale between September 1 and November 30. The silver dollar will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the construction of the Trans-Canada Railway.

British Columbia experienced a "phenomenal" growth in the number of jobs created during the last year, according to Bill Nelles, chief of economic and labour market economics for British Columbia. The province accounted for 21 per cent of all new jobs in Canada in 1980, even though it only has 10 per cent of the total population. Mr. Nelles noted that British Columbia's strong showing resulted from a number of factors, including: population growth averaging 3 per cent for the year in the working age groups, a favourable exchange rate on the Canadian dollar benefiting exports and increased capital investment in the last year in heavy industry.

The Royal Bank, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Toronto Dominion Bank have received the highest possible ratings of triple-A for their debt securities in the first published survey by a Canadian rating service. The fifth, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, received marginally lower ratings of high double-A. W. Schroeder, president of Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited of Toronto, said that Canadian banks have the reputation of being among the strongest credits in the world and detailed investigation of their financial condition backed up that assessment.

Luscar Limited of Edmonton has started shipments of thermal coal to Japan under multi-year contracts with Japanese

cement companies and electricity generating utilities, according to Arthur Wilson, vice-president, marketing. To fill the orders Luscar is expanding the capacity of its Coal Valley mine, which has been shipping about two million tons a year to Ontario Hydro and about 500,000 tons a year to West Germany. The Japanese contracts call for staged increases in shipments, to reach the one-million-ton-a-year level by the end of 1983.

A \$50-million, five-year program to develop solar technology and increase the use of solar energy in Ontario was recently announced by the provincial government. The program is one element in a strategy to assist Canada in achieving the vital goal of oil self-sufficiency by the end of this decade. The aim is to use solar energy to provide the energy-equivalent of 15 million barrels of oil annually by 1995.

Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc has announced that economist Peter Pearse will conduct a formal inquiry into the fishing industry. Pearse is to make recommendations by the end of the year on the condition, management and utilization of the Pacific coast fisheries.

McGill University students held an international energy conference February 11-14 at the university in Montreal. Delegates and speakers discussed topics such as alternative energy sources, energy conservation and environmental protection.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of a \$57.2-million (Cdn.) allocation to EDC's Algerian line of credit to finance the sale of 1,774 prefabricated homes by Treco Inc. of St. Romuald, Quebec, to the Algerian government for earthquake areas of El Asnam, Algeria. An earthquake devastated the city of El Asnam in the summer of 1980 and the Algerian government has undertaken to completely rebuild the city. The project, valued at \$67.3 million (Cdn.), consists of 537 semi-detached dwellings and 700 single family dwellings.

Canada's Ambassador to the United States Peter Towe and Canada's former Ambassador to Iran and current Consul General in New York Kenneth Taylor were guests of honour at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., January 28, to welcome home the former American hostages in Iran. They were guests of honour along with ambassadors from other countries which provided assistance.