

NEW MINT IN WINNIPEG

A new mint that will produce coins for domestic use and for export will be built in Winnipeg, Manitoba at a cost of \$16 million.

James Richardson, Minister of Supply and Services, who made the announcement on January 20, said that \$3 million would also be spent to improve the present facilities at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. The gold-refining operation will continue in Ottawa with an increased production of coins for collectors. Mr. Richardson stated that Canada's present minting capacity is inadequate for the production of circulating coins, and is even less able to supply the potential export market for circulation coins and to meet the growing demand for numismatic coins.

The new Winnipeg facilities, which will occupy an area of more than 90,000 square feet, will have an output capacity of more than one billion coins a year, compared to the present average production of about 400 million.

Mr. Richardson points out that of the 105 countries with recognized coinage systems, only 40 operate mints of their own. The 65 countries that do not have their own mint purchase more than 3 billion coins a year, which provides a substantial world market.

ADVANTAGEOUS LOCATION

The largest requirement for domestic coins is in the more heavily-populated areas of Ontario and Quebec; the major export market is in South America and the Pacific, through the Port of Vancouver. The new Winnipeg mint will therefore be ideally situated

between the major export market and the major domestic market.

As well as being potentially profitable for the mint, the proposed exports will result in the manufacture of copper and nickel on the Prairies and will help reduce the amount of these metals now being exported from Canada in unfinished form.

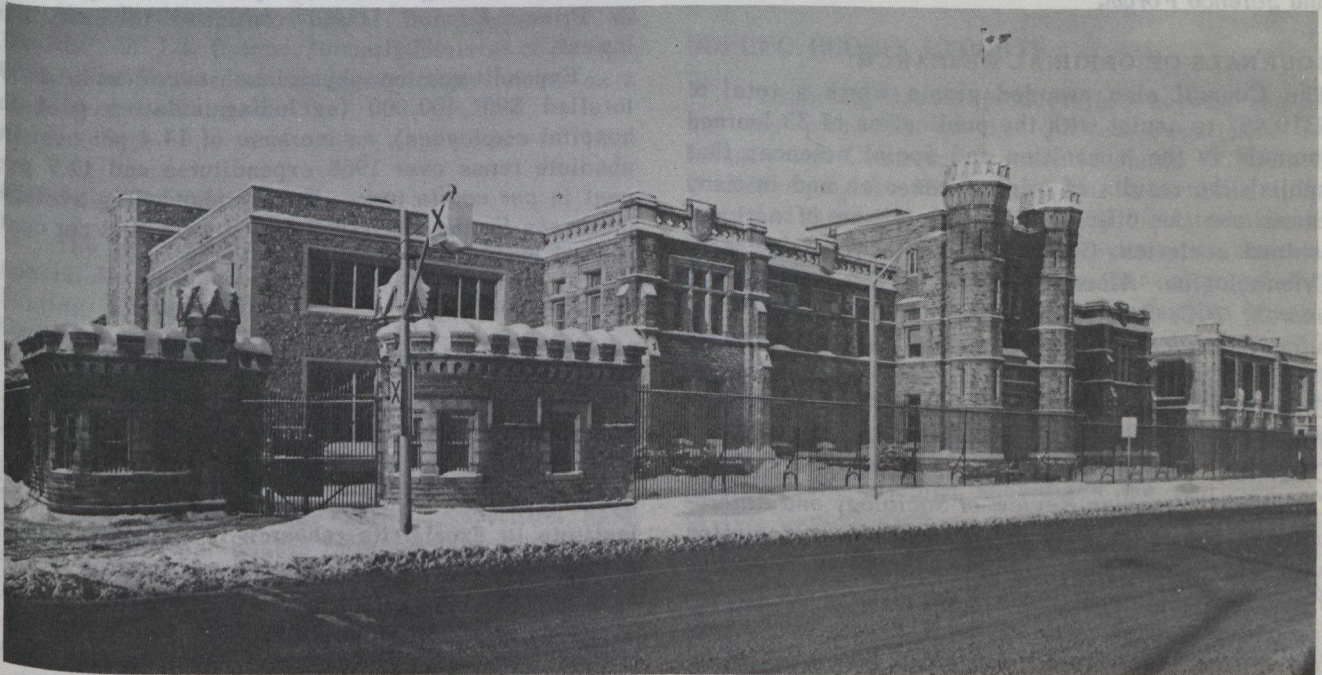
Mr. Richardson noted that the only Canadian manufacturer of nickel strip (the rolled metal from which coins are manufactured) is located in the Prairies at Fort Saskatchewan. So far, however, the largest purchases of nickel strip made by the Royal Canadian Mint have been from a plant in the United States. By locating the new coin-production facility in Western Canada, the Canadian supplier will enjoy a significant advantage in the cost of transportation over that of the United States manufacturer, which should result in increased manufacturing of Canadian metals in Canada.

Included in the improvements to the Ottawa mint is an enlarged coin museum as well as a small theatre as an added attraction to tourists.

In addition, a large and more modern numismatic division in Ottawa will increase production of coins that do not enter into commercial use but which are sold to the highly profitable collector market.

Until the Winnipeg mint is in operation in about two years, all coin production will continue in the mint in Ottawa.

All employees whose jobs will be transferred to Winnipeg will be offered continued employment there, including relocation allowances. Those not wishing to move will be assisted in securing other jobs.



The Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, which has been in operation since 1908. The Federal Government will spend \$3 million to improve and enlarge the present facilities and \$16 million on a new mint in Winnipeg.