

FLORAL EMBLEM STAMPS

The floral emblems and the armorial bearings of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec are depicted on two new postage stamps to be issued on June 30 by the Canada Post Office. In announcing the new stamps, Mr. John R. Nicholson, the Postmaster General, said that the new issues would be the first of a series showing the floral emblems and armorial bearings of each of the provinces. Other stamps in the series will be issued periodically during 1965 and 1966.

PART OF CENTENARY PROGRAMME

The floral series is part of the Post Office programme of special issues leading up to the centenary of Confederation. It continues the sequence of multi-coloured stamps produced for the first time this year by the Canada Post Office. Each of the floral issues is printed in three colours - two by offset lithography and one by traditional steel-line intaglio printing.

The Postmaster General said that the Ontario and Quebec stamps had been chosen as the first in the floral series because these provinces, with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, were the original partners in the federal agreement of 1867. Stamps for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be included in the 1965 issues.

The white trillium of Ontario was selected as the official flower of that province in 1937. The white garden lily was chosen as the floral emblem of Quebec in 1963.

The stamps were designed and engraved by the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited of Ottawa. A total of 18 million copies of each stamp is to be printed. The stamps are of the large or double size and are on the horizontal plane.

The floral stamps are the fourth and fifth new issues produced in 1964 by the Canada Post Office and the second and third in the Department's history to be produced in more than two colours.

CANADIAN DIVORCES IN 1963

A total of 7,681 divorces was granted in 1963 by provincial and territorial divorce courts and the Parliament of Canada, according to preliminary figures released recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is the third-highest total ever granted in any year, previous record years being 1947, with 8,213, and 1946, with 7,757. Even excluding the 499 granted by Parliament during 1963 on behalf of Quebec and Newfoundland appellants, the 1963 total is still 414 higher than the 6,768 granted in 1962, when no Quebec or Newfoundland divorce bills were passed by Parliament.

The 1963 divorce rate was 40.6 (in 100,000 population) compared to 36.4 and 36.0 in the two preceding years. Since 1950, the rate has fluctuated between 36 and 42, compared to all-time peaks of 63.4 and 63.1 in 1947-46.

The number of 1963 divorces (and rates) was higher than in the previous year in practically all provinces (excluding Quebec and Newfoundland), with the largest percentage increases in Nova Scotia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta together accounted for 6,016, or almost 80 per cent, of the 1963 total.

DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE

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to the League of Nations in Geneva 28 years ago, been playing a serious and constructive part in the collective effort to achieve disarmament on terms that would reduce rather than increase present risks for all. On these criteria we believe it would be folly simply to give up the nuclear deterrent, unilaterally or on both sides, without some means of knowing that there was no cheating. We therefore want inspection and control not before disarmament but progressing with it as required technically for the satisfaction of both parties to know pledges are, in fact, being kept. Progress is really being made, painfully slowly it is true, but I think already the improvement in Western relations with the Soviet Union which I mentioned earlier is due in part to the patience and sincerity of our collective work on disarmament over the years.

But it is due to something more. Since the war, we in the West have shown the Asian and African majority of the world's peoples that it is possible for white rulers to leave before they have to, and for independence - economic as well as political - to be given to hundreds of millions of these ancient peoples who were civilized long before North America had been, as we say, "discovered". It is also a salutary lesson for some people to see that Western countries are willing to give large amounts of aid for the economic development, even of non-aligned countries, without exacting any kind of trade, political or military concession in return. Aid alone is not enough, but aid and trade together are building bridges for our ideas in Asia and Africa and indeed among all the developing countries. With this "third world" there is no more important aspect of our modern diplomacy. It is helping to reduce the gap and therefore the tensions between the rich and the poor in the world - and this gap may in the long run be as great a source of worry for the peace of the world as the gap between the Communist and non-Communist worlds is today....