

Stamps honour Commonwealth Conference and Canadian heroes

For the third time in 15 years, the Canada Post Office will commemorate a Canadian-hosted conference of the Commonwealth countries with the issue of a new stamp to mark the opening of the twenty-third Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, to be held in Ottawa from September 19 to 25.



The 25-cent stamp, designed by Stuart Ash of Toronto from a photograph by Ottawa artist Malak, features the Peace Tower of the Parliament buildings.

Founded in 1911, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is composed of "Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of race, religion, or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and the rights and freedoms of the individual citizen, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy".



Bernier and Fleming stamps

Sir Sandford Fleming and Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, renowned names in Canadian history, will be commemorated Septem-



ber 16, when the Canada Post Office issues two new 12-cent stamps.

Both stamps, which were designed by Will Davies of Toronto, depict the subjects in settings relating to significant events in their lives. Bernier is pictured with the CGS *Arctic*, shown caught in the ice during one of his expeditions. As commander of the vessel, he claimed islands and established police posts in the Arctic, thereby strengthening Canadian sovereignty in the North. Fleming's portrait is featured with a train, which is shown crossing one of the steel bridges he designed and surveyed on the Intercolonial Railway. He also designed Canada's first stamp, the "Three Penny Beaver", invented a system of standard time and promoted the Pacific cable.

New regulations for swine imports from the U.S.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently announced that, effective August 11, all swine breeding stock imported from the United States must be quarantined only in federally-operated quarantine stations. The action was taken because of concern on the part of the Canadian swine industry about the number of cases of pseudorabies in the U.S.

From 100 to 200 head of swine are imported from the U.S. annually. They must be quarantined for 30 days to prevent entry of hog cholera, a disease which has not been present in Canada since 1963. In the past, the number of imported animals has sometimes exceeded the capacity of a particular quarantine station. So animals were sometimes quarantined at previously approved farm locations.

"We are now permitting quarantine only at federal quarantine stations because of concern that the disease could spread if it appears at locations in live-stock-producing areas. At a federal quarantine station, any outbreak of pseudorabies could be completely controlled," the minister said.

Pseudorabies is a reportable disease under the federal Animal Disease and Protection Act. The virus can seriously affect swine and can result in loss of young pigs. Older pigs, less likely to die from the infection, may remain carriers of the disease.

Oil and gas search intensifies

Amendments to the Canada Oil and Gas Land Regulations have opened up over one billion acres of land under federal jurisdiction in the North and offshore areas for oil and natural gas exploration.

The system inaugurated by the amendments will enable the processing of current applications for oil and gas leases on some 31 million acres now held under permit. It will allow the selective issuing of new exploration rights on about 700 million acres of Crown reserve lands, which were once held under permit or lease but were surrendered to the Crown. In addition, more than 600 million acres of Canada lands, both on and off-shore that have never been covered by permit or lease will become available for exploration on a carefully selected basis.

Ending the moratorium on the issuance of oil and gas leases and opening up new areas of Canada lands for exploration should provide good incentive for industry to press the search for oil and gas.

The amendments provide special options for Petro-Canada to obtain up to 25 per cent of those lands available within a year of the date of the amendment of the regulations, as well as up to 25 per cent of any lands surrendered to the Crown over seven years from that date.

Petro-Canada will also be able to acquire up to a 25 percent working interest on lands where the normal permit term has expired and where no significant finds of oil or gas have been made. Any application for a special renewal of existing permits or for conversion of lease applications to special renewal permits will automatically trigger the option. However, should the net Canadian equity represented by the companies involved be more than 35 per cent, Petro-Canada would not be able to exercise this option.

The fact that the Petro-Canada option is directly tied to the net Canadian equity represented by holders of the lands, provides oil and gas companies with an opportunity to meet the more than 35 percent minimum requirements by increasing the Canadian ownership element. This should afford Canadian companies a greater opportunity to become involved in the oil and gas exploration and development activities in the frontier regions. It will also enhance Canadian ownership of those oil and gas resources discovered and produced in these regions.