

and in 1964 Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He has served in London, Brussels, Paris; as Counselor, Canadian delegation to the North Atlantic Council and the OECD, and as adviser to the ICSC in Indochina. He has been Ambassador to the United States since 1970.

Mr. Warren was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce in 1958; in 1964, Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce; and in 1969, Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He served as Chairman, Council of Representatives, GATT, in 1960; Deputy Chairman, Canadian delegation to GATT Tariff Conference, Geneva, 1960-61; and Chairman, Contracting Parties of GATT, 1962-65. He was appointed High Commissioner in Britain in 1971.

### Cassava research grants

Grants totalling \$604,200 to support four projects to improve animal feed in Southeast Asia and Africa were announced recently by the President of the International Development Research Centre, Dr. W. David Hopper.

The program of research into breeding improved varieties of cassava and improving the quality of animal feed with a cassava base is starting in Malaysia, Thailand and Nigeria.

(Cassava, a starchy rootcrop, provides more than half the calorie intake of between 200 and 300 million people in tropical regions of Latin America, Africa and (to a lesser extent) Asia. It is also grown to provide starch for industry, and processed in the form of chips and pellets for animal feed.)

### Type of research

The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute is establish-

ing a program of practical cassava research, to breed improved varieties and carry out farm trials, and also to provide training facilities for scientists and technicians from Malaysia and neighbouring Asian countries.

Two projects in Thailand are more directly concerned with the processing of cassava, in the form of chips and pellets, as feed for pigs, poultry and cattle. These involve tests at the Asian Institute of Technology, near Bangkok, on drying equipment and pellet machines, and studies at Khon Kaen University to formulate a nutritious diet in which cassava largely replaces maize and rice as the basic compound in animal feed.

A similar plan is being supported in Nigeria at the University of Ife, where scientists from three departments will be working together on the best type of animal feed that can be produced using cassava combined with local protein sources.

All four projects are linked with the world-wide network of cassava research that has been set up since 1970 with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia as the focal point.

### Street-car energy savers for Toronto

Toronto is to have new street-cars capable of travelling at 112 km an hour and which boast energy-saving and other features that will make them among the world's most functional and comfortable of their type, according to their designers, the Ontario Transportation Development Corporation. Delivery will begin to the Toronto Transit Commission in 1977.

The new "light-rail vehicle", as it is called, will have improved acceleration over current models yet save an estimated 33 per cent in energy consumption. Transistorized controls will supply only as much electrical energy as is actually needed.

Other features are: better braking, and considerably less noise than in existing models; telephone contact with depot; "plug-in" type components for easy maintenance; a push-button strip installed on the backs of seats that actuates an indicator light at the front for passengers wishing to get off. Travellers can also look forward to modern seating, brighter lighting and forced-air ventilation.

### Housing slowdown should reverse

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home-buyers, who postponed their purchase during the past year or two, while prices rose at a rate that grossly outstripped rising production costs, will be prepared to buy during 1975. In addition, new assistance from the Federal Government to moderate and low-income buyers and tenants, coupled with reduced mortgage rates and a stable market place, is expected to produce a rising demand for good housing.

### Canadian housing statistics in 1974

Investment in new housing at \$6,975 million was 16.7 percent above the 1973 level of \$5,977 million.

For some metropolitan areas the rental market became very tight with nearly one third having apartment vacancy rates of less than 1 per cent. These included St. John's, Edmonton and Vancouver. At the same time, some weakening in the market for new owner-occupied dwellings developed. Builders, however, were reluctant to lower house prices owing to continued cost pressures and this led to an accumulation of inventory of completed unoccupied houses and duplexes in metropolitan and major urban areas.

In 1974, price increases for residential construction surpassed those of 1973, which was in turn the highest since the increases of the early Fifties, during the Korean war. The construction cost a square foot for single-detached houses constructed in 1974 under the National Housing Act increased by 22.3 per cent to \$22.84 from \$18.67 in 1973, compared to 15 per cent the previous year and 6.7 per cent in 1972.

The average total cost for NHA-financed single-detached houses increased somewhat less than the costs a square foot, by 16.8 per cent to \$29.810, from \$25,517 the previous year.

The average age of NHA borrowers was down from 32.0 years in 1973 to 31.4 years in 1974. Purchasers assumed an average mortgage debt of \$23,830, or 12 percent higher than in the previous year.

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