

agency Gold Mining Assistance Act will continue to sell to the Mint as the Act requires and the Mint will continue to buy gold from them at \$35 (U.S.) an ounce, converted into Canadian dollars at current exchange-rates.

In view of the requirements of the industrial market into which its gold will now be moving, the Mint has extended its refining process to produce gold of 999.5 per 1,000 fineness, compared with 995.0 per 1,000, which was used for gold that formerly went into monetary reserves.

PUBLIC SERVICE LANGUAGE TRAINING

Since the language-training courses conducted by the Public Service Commission of Canada began three years ago, the enrolment of public servants has increased from 42 to 5,000.

John J. Carson, chairman of the Public Service Commission of Canada, who recently participated with Mr. George McIlraith, Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Gérard Pelletier, Minister without Portfolio, in the official opening of the Public Service Language Centre in Hull, Quebec, pointed out recently that, by the end of the 1966-67 training period, about 1,000 English-speaking employees had learned enough French to take part in bilingual meetings. He also noted that more than 700 French-speaking public servants knew enough English to participate in both English and French discussions.

The opening of the Public Service Language Centre is a major step in the programme of the Public Service Commission for the teaching of second-language "skills" to public servants.

The Centre, which will eventually accommodate up to 250 full-time students, includes 20 classrooms, each of which accommodates a class of 10; two language laboratories, with 24 student-stations and equipment; and accommodation for 50 resident students to take complete "immersion courses".

There are 46 teachers and four senior supervisors, as well as 36 part-time monitors, who assist the students during lunch and dinner hours in continuing conversations in the second language.

A NEW USE FOR COMPUTERS

Anyone making a telephone-call to Ottawa for information on Canada's glaciers will soon be answered by a computer operated by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Scientists from the Inland Waters Branch, Glaciology, are developing a computer programme, called "Canadian Glacier Inventory", which involves 20 items of information about glaciers, such as size, type, composition, etc. Eventually, through the International Hydrological Decade, information about all the glaciers of the world will be available from a similar computer system.

The depth of the glaciers remains a problem because very little sounding has been possible before radio-glaciology was introduced. This month, however, glaciologists will be using a radio echo-

sounder for the first time to study the depth and bottom contours of the Athabasca glacier in Jasper Park, Alberta. A broader study will be launched if the current operations are successful.

BISHOP RELICS TO WAR MUSEUM

The exploits of Canada's Billy Bishop, top British fighter pilot of the First World War, were commemorated on June 3 in a ceremony held at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. The Bishop family presented to the Museum the medals and uniform of the famous ace, and the bullet-pierced windscreen of his Nieuport Scout fighter.

In 18 months, between March 1917 and August 1918, Bishop shot down 72 enemy planes — the largest number accounted for by any British pilot. After one of these forays into hostile territory, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, becoming the first Canadian pilot to gain this distinction.

Jean Ostiguy, chairman of the board of governors of the National Museums of Canada, accepted the presentation, which included the propellor and spinner from Bishop's plane, and a painting of the late pilot in full dress. Museum officials regard these articles as among their most important acquisitions in years.

During the time Bishop saw action, he was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, the Military Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

In the Second World War, he performed administrative duties with the Royal Canadian Air Force as an air marshal. He died in Florida in 1956.

Attending the ceremony was the late Air Marshal's son, Arthur, who wrote his father's biography, *The Courage of the Early Morning*. His daughter, Mrs. H.R. Willis-O'Connor, was also present.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average March weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing showed little change from those for February, according to data soon to be published in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics report *Man Hours and Hourly Earnings*. An increase of 2 cents in average hourly earnings was offset by a 0.3-hour decline in average weekly hours. Average weekly hours showed no change from those for March 1967; average hourly earnings were 14 cents higher than those of a year earlier.

In mining, average weekly wages declined from \$128.94 in February to \$128.20 in March as average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$3.02 and average weekly hours were 0.3 hours lower. Compared to 1967 figures, average weekly hours were 0.3 higher and average hourly earnings were 22 cents higher.

In construction, average weekly wages rose from \$132.89 in February to \$133.47 in March as a 0.3-hour increase in average weekly hours more than offset a 1-cent decline in average hourly earnings. Compared to March 1967 figures, average weekly hours were 1.5 hours higher and average hourly earnings were 17 cents higher.