

## DOMINION ARCHIVIST RETIRES

After 20 years as Dominion Archivist, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb retired on November 20. His retirement marks for the Public Archives of Canada the end of a period that saw important changes brought about under his leadership.

Dr. Lamb had already a rich experience behind him when he was chosen by Prime Minister King in 1948, to be head of the Public Archives of Canada and to prepare the creation of the National Library.

A native of New Westminster, British Columbia, Dr. Lamb was appointed Provincial Librarian and Archivist of British Columbia in 1934 at the age of 30. In 1940, he had become Librarian of the University of B.C., where he had paid particular attention to its collections of *Canadiana*. He was also director of the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*, which he had founded in 1937, and he had contributed to many other journals. He had also edited the three volumes of *The Letters of John McLoughlin* (1941-1944) for the Hudson's Bay Record Society.

On becoming Dominion Archivist, he singled out three areas in which a special effort was needed to enable the Archives to fulfill its obligations to government and historical research.

### PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The first aim was to allow the Archives to function as a public record office, where all non-current government records of research value would be preserved, while useless material was disposed of in a methodical manner. This goal was attained with the assistance of the Public Records Committee and the Record Management Institute. In 1956, the Archives opened a Records Centre in Ottawa to serve all the departments of the capital region, to which regional centres were subsequently added. In the orderly selection or destruction of government records, a landmark was reached with the establishment of the Public Records Order of 1966, and it is expected that, by May 1969, all government records will be scheduled and their disposition provided for.

### AIRCRAFT ASSEMBLY CONTRACT

Northwest Industries Limited of Edmonton has been chosen by Lockheed-California Company of Burbank, California, to build major structural assemblies worth up to \$25 million for the Lockheed L-1011 jetliner.

An agreement under which Northwest Industries will develop and fabricate the nose landing-gear doors of the aircraft, and several large air-frame components was announced jointly at a recent conference by C. Douglas Reekie, president of CAE Industries Ltd., parent firm of NWI, and Daniel J. Haughton, chairman of the board of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

The second object was to acquire all the significant material of non-government origin dealing with Canadian history – notably for the period after 1867 – for which the resources of the Archives were rather scanty in 1948. During Dr. Lamb's administration, the papers of political figures and of other distinguished Canadians, and records of cultural and commercial societies were accessioned. The papers of prime ministers alone, which are now deposited in the Archives, amount to nearly five million pages. Dr. Lamb also obtained the papers of French and British administrators of commercial or religious societies. Outstanding examples of these are the Hudson's Bay Company records, the Lévis Collection, and the papers of all Governors General from 1867 to 1914.

One of Dr. Lamb's first actions as Dominion Archivist had been to obtain permission to microfilm, in public institutions in London and Paris, large series of documents vital to the history of Canada – a method of copying much cheaper and more accurate than the hand-copying until then in use.

Great strides were also made in the enrichment of the resources of the Map and Picture Divisions and of the Library, including the beginning of a collection of sound-recordings. The Public Archives, because of Dr. Lamb's work, is much closer to its aim of possessing the most complete documentation possible of Canadian history.

### CATALOGUING

The third major aim of Dr. Lamb's programme was the cataloguing of the complete holdings of the Archives. All holdings are now catalogued and covered by "preliminary inventories", of which a significant part have been published, and others are nearly ready for publication. In addition, under the sponsorship of Dr. Lamb, a *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories* has just been issued, which permits the quick location of collections, not only in the Public Archives but in over 100 Canadian institutions.

A similar announcement was made in Edmonton by E.L. Bunnell, president of Northwest Industries.

Mr. Reekie said that the value of the agreement to NWI "could rise as high as \$25 million, based on 350 ship sets and spares".

In addition to the nose wheel-doors, NWI will build floor support sections, below-floor bulkheads and the air-conditioning plenum chamber and riser ducts.

Mr. Haughton noted that the agreement with NWI was the second recent award of L-1011 work in Canada. A few days before this announcement, CAE had announced its selection by Lockheed to build a flight-simulator for the L-1011.