

News briefs

Union membership in Canada stood at 3,277,968 at the beginning of 1978, which is 4.1 percent above the figure of 3,149,213 at the beginning of 1977. The increase between 1976 and 1977 had been 3.5 per cent.

The consumer price index advanced 9.8 per cent from July 1977 to July 1978. Continued sharp price advances in the food component were largely responsible. This component increased by 20.1 per cent in the latest 12-month period, whereas the increase for all items excluding food was 6 per cent.

Preliminary statistics are now available from the February 1978 Survey of Visual Artists conducted in the provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia. Almost 60 per cent of the estimated 2,000 practising visual artists earned less than \$10,000 in 1977. About 75 per cent of these artists reported art sales of less than \$5,000 and expenses for dealer commissions accounted for 35 per cent to 55 per cent of total sales.

A survey of 3,681 families and single individuals in eight cities of Canada shows that their total expenditures for 1976 averaged \$17,995 of which 16 per cent was spent on food, 15.6 per cent on shelter, 12.2 per cent on travel and transportation and 7 per cent on clothing. In the survey, conducted in 1977 in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver, families and unattached individuals in private households were asked to recall their expenditures for the previous year. A full report entitled *Urban Family Expenditure, 1976*, will be published early next year by Statistics Canada.

The Federal Government has formally decided to continue the ban of cyclamates as a sweetener in processed foods and soft drinks.

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

The prospect of obtaining significant volumes of synthetic oil production from Alberta's heavy oil deposits and oil sands in the next two decades was "realistic", G. Govier, retiring chairman of the province's Energy Resources Conservation Board, told the executive of the World Energy Conference in Banff. He cautioned that, despite recent promising oil strikes in the province, production during the past several years had exceeded net additions to reserves.

The Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Corporation earned a profit of \$5.7 million in fiscal 1977/78, according to its annual report. Net earnings represented a 400 percent increase over that of fiscal 1976/77.

About 900 production workers at American Motors (Canada) Limited in Brampton, Ontario, have ratified a two-year agreement providing wage increases of 3 per cent in each year, plus a provision for quarterly cost of living increases.

Dominion Bridge Company Limited of Montreal has received an order valued in excess of \$11 million from Sudan-Ren Chemical and Fertilizer Limited of the Sudan to build a urea fertilizer plant.

The National Research Council has been assigned the responsibility for co-ordination of fusion energy research within the federal energy research and development program. In the fusion process, two light nuclei such as deuterium and tritium are made to "fuse" together, resulting in the formation of a single heavier nucleus together with the release of a large amount of energy. Fusion holds the promise of a virtually inexhaustible supply of energy from a universally available source (deuterium is found in sea water).

Agriculture Canada's livestock market information staff is expanding the daily national market report to include prices for feeder cattle at the following major United States markets: Kansas City, Sioux City, Omaha, and South St. Paul. Producers can get the prices directly, by calling Agriculture Canada's beef markets Zenith number, 1-800-267-8370, except in British Columbia where the number is 112-800-267-8370. The information is also available at local livestock division markets offices.

The National Energy Board has granted permission to Hydro-Quebec to export interruptible power and energy to the Power Authority of the State of New York up to December 31, 1983.

The takeover of Northwood Properties of Penticton, British Columbia, by Weyerhaeuser International of Washington has been approved by the Federal Government. The company has agreed to spend \$14 million within two years to increase the capacity of its pulp mill and to spend \$3 million on research and development.

Sales by wholesale merchants for July were estimated at \$5,046,210,000, a 12.9 percent increase from 4,469,343,000 noted in July 1977. Wholesale inventories were valued at \$8,251,770,000, up 9.7 per cent from stocks of \$7,523,388,000 at the end of July last year.

The National Library celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary with a multimedia exhibition — the largest ever mounted by the library — until October 29. *The National Library of Canada: Twenty-five years after*, a book written by Ian Wees emphasizing the evolution, problems, shortcomings and achievements of the library, may be ordered by mail from Publishing Centre, Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, P.Q., Canada K1A 0S9. All orders must be accompanied by a cheque or money order made payable to the Receiver General for Canada. The book costs \$3 if ordered in Canada, or \$3.60 from abroad.

Lieutenant-General Maurice Arthur Pope, a former Canadian diplomat and soldier, died in Ottawa on September 20 at 89. He was Vice Chief of the general staff during the Second World War and later Ambassador to West Germany, Belgium and Spain.

Canada's index of industrial production rose to a seasonally-adjusted 132.0 in July, up 1.1 per cent from 130.5 in June and an improvement of 5.4 per cent over one year. The index has a base of 100 for 1971.

The founder of Tip Top Tailors, David Dunkelman, who made millions by becoming the "Henry Ford of the clothing business", died recently in Toronto. He was 98. Dunkelman, who began business in 1909 by advertising made-to-measure suits for \$14, developed a technique of cutting and sewing garments in assembly-line fashion (just being introduced in heavy industry), which cut costs and sped production. According to the *Globe and Mail*, Tip Top Tailors were producing a military uniform every eight seconds during the last war, filling orders from nearly every Allied nation.