

Canadian sites make heritage list

L'anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, the only authentic Norse site discovered in North America, and Nahanni National Park in the Northwest Territories were among 12 sites chosen as the first locations to be included on a World Heritage List by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Washington on September 8.

Twelve sites from seven countries were named to the first World Heritage List setting them aside for the preservation of mankind. In addition to the Canadian sites, the committee approved the choice of Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde in the United States; the Galapagos Islands and the Old City of Quito in Ecuador; Simien National Park and the Rock Churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia; the Island of Gorée, Senegal; the Wieliczka Salt Mines and the Historic Urban Centre of Cracow in Poland; and Aachen Cathedral in West Germany.

News briefs

Syncrude Canada Ltd., the giant \$2.15-billion oil sands extraction plant in Fort McMurray, Alberta, opened officially September 15. The facility, one of the largest open-pit mines in the world, covers 11 square miles; the operation uses two fluid cokers, each as high as a 21-storey tower, and 17 miles of conveyor belt. The synthetic crude oil, which is extracted from the asphalt-like sand and heated to achieve the right consistency, is sent to Edmonton for refinement. Syncrude now produces an average of 50,000 barrels of synthetic crude oil a day and by 1982 may produce 129,000 barrels daily, enough to meet 5 per cent of Canada's oil requirements.

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Secretary of State for External Affairs

Don Jamieson has announced the appointment of Maurice Cutler as official press spokesman and Director of the Press Office of the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Cutler has been Mr. Jamieson's special adviser since 1977. Prior to that appointment, he was press secretary to former Finance Minister Donald S. Macdonald.

Canada's 1979-80 development assistance has been frozen by the Government at this year's level, cutting \$133 million in planned expenditures. Several large foreign aid projects will be shelved and few, if any, new projects will be approved for 1980-81.

A loan of \$22.5 million by the Export Development Corporation and the Bank of Nova Scotia will support a sale of 20 diesel electric locomotives and 120 boxcars to the United Republic of Cameroun. The locomotives are expected to be manufactured by Bombardier-MLW Limited, of Montreal. Boxcars are expected to be supplied either from Hawker Siddeley of Canada Limited, of Trenton, Nova Scotia or National Steel Car Corporation, of Hamilton, Ontario. The project is expected to generate at least 1,000 man-years of employment in Canada.

Transport Minister Otto Lang said recently that the crowds at the Farnborough Air Show, south of London, England, were visibly impressed with the performance of the Canadian-designed and built *Dash-7* STOL aircraft — its quietness and its ability to land and take off in much shorter distances than its competitors. "I think that it looks very promising that we should begin to break into some new markets with the *Dash-7*," said the minister.

Maple syrup production for 1978 is estimated at 1.6 million gallons, a decrease of 11 per cent from the 1977 crop of 1.8 million gallons. Maple sugar production is down 19 per cent to 339,000 pounds. Returns to producers were \$19.5 million for the 1977 crop; indications are for higher prices on the 1978 crop.

Prince Edward Island's Finance and Education Minister Bennett Campbell has been elected interim leader of the provincial Liberal Party, following the resignation September 11 of Premier Alex Campbell (no relation). The new leader will serve until a convention is held to choose a permanent leader.

Judge Edward James Houston has been appointed a full-time member of the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

Air Canada has announced a new inter-city parcel delivery service called Cour-air which will provide overnight, door-to-door delivery of parcels weighing no more than 25 kilograms between major central Canadian points. The service, which will include Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec initially, will be expanded to British Columbia, the Atlantic provinces and the eastern coast of the United States next spring. Service to Europe is contemplated for the future. The new service is subject to approval by the Federal Government.

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 8.5 per cent in August from 8.4 per cent in July. The rate in August 1977 was 8.2 per cent. Without seasonal adjustment, the August labour force was 11,527,000 with 10,635,000 employed and 892,000 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 7.7 per cent. In July, the labour force was 11,570,000 with 10,644,000 employed and 927,000 unemployed for a rate of 8.0 per cent. In August 1977, the labour force numbered 11,098,000 with 10,260,000 employed and 838,000 unemployed for a rate of 7.5 per cent.

Preliminary estimates indicate that during the January to July period of 1978 farmers' total cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$6,655.2 million, compared with \$5,738.5 million realized during the same period of 1977.

Including members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Federal Government and its enterprises had 596,616 employees as of June 1978, an increase of 16,594 from those of June 1977. (Departments hired approximately 13,000 more employees for Federal Labour Intensive Projects than they had a year earlier.)

Montreal has acquired another English-language newspaper *The Montreal Record*. Several of its writers are former reporters of the strike-ridden *The Montreal Star*. The new tabloid, which features sports and entertainment articles, is owned by Harry Jakobs, a Montreal producer-broadcaster, and Sterling Taylor Inc., a group of five individuals headed by Mr. Taylor, a former editor for *The Montreal Star* and editor of the new paper.

Montreal's Man and His World, successor to the world fair, Expo 67, welcomed 3.9 million visitors this summer and increased its revenues by 30 per cent over last year's figure. However, the fair reports a deficit of \$7 million.