

NOVEL MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM

The new money-order system of the Canada Post Office, the most modern ever developed, was recently inaugurated by Mr. Jean Pierre Côté, Minister of the Crown responsible for the Post Office Department. It was developed by the application of innovative computer-age techniques to provide maximum efficiency and customer security.

The technology for the new system, based on Post Office specifications, was developed by three industrial firms. R.L. Crain Limited, one of Canada's largest producers of business forms, designed the three-part, carbon-interleaved money-order forms by co-ordinating their development with electronic processing equipment.

The billfold-size money-order is pre-printed, except for the date, office number, amount and currency, in machine-readable characters. Small typewriter-size imprinters, developed by Addressograph-Multigraph of Canada Limited, add the additional information to the forms at the time of purchase. Installed in post offices and sub-stations across Canada, the imprinters allow wicket-clerks to record the amount and other details at the time of purchase, quickly, uniformly and accurately. The names of the sender and receiver of the money-order are filled in by the customer himself, ensuring him complete privacy.

Money-order information is "read" centrally by the Optical Character Recognition Unit, developed by Recognition Equipment Incorporated of Dallas, Texas. Documents are read and fed into a computer at a rate of 1,200 a minute for simultaneous recording and auditing operations.

The one-time development and implementation costs of the new system amount to \$2 million. The direct savings alone will pay for the system in five years.

The Post Office Department expects that the new system will considerably increase its \$1-billion annual gross sale of money-orders. The new money-orders are negotiable without charge, are available in Canadian, U.S. and British currencies, can be purchased at post offices throughout the business day, and provide the customer with a high degree of security.

CANADIAN SEPTEMBER EXPORTS

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported for the month of September total exports of \$1,350 million, an increase of \$50 million, or 3.8 per cent, over the same period a year ago. Except for a decline of some \$50 million in exports to the United States, shipments increased to other countries. The sharp rise of \$27 million, or 35 per cent, in exports to Britain was attributable in part to work stoppages in the Canadian mineral industry in the summer of 1969. Exports to Latin America advanced about \$20 mil-

lion and those to "other countries" about \$35 million. Wheat exports were \$38 million higher and those of ores and alloys of copper and nickel some \$42 million higher. Shipments of crude petroleum, lumber, aircraft and parts were slightly larger. Exports of automotive products, however, fell more than \$60 million, while export decreases in pulp, newsprint and aluminum alloys were more moderate.

Exports for the first nine months of 1970, at \$12,477 million, were \$1,598 million, or 14.7 per cent, above the \$10,879 million exported for the same period in 1969. Higher shipments to the United States accounted for 30 per cent of the total increase, and those to Commonwealth and Preferential Countries a further 24 per cent.

After allowance for seasonal factors, September exports were estimated to be \$1,391 million. While considerably higher than that of August, the September value was still slightly below the level prevailing in the earlier months of 1970.

ARCTIC TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

A national conference on Arctic Transportation, to be held on December 8, 9 and 10 at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, was announced recently by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Don Jamieson, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Jean Chrétien. Participants will include representatives of industry, government and the academic community, as well as others interested in northern transportation.

Leading transportation authorities will present papers for study and discussion. The conference will be sponsored by the Federal Government with the co-operation of the territorial governments. The theme will be "Arctic Transportation in the 1970s".

"The northern territories constitute an area of special concern to Canada," say the two Ministers. "If the obligations to the present population are to be met and the heritage of future generations is to be safeguarded, it is essential that the objectives of political, social and economic development, protection of the environment and the maintenance of sovereignty and security in the North are assigned priorities of the highest level."

TRAVEL FIGURES

Travel between Canada and other countries in 1969 involved a total of 72.5 million border-crossings and an estimated \$2.4 billion in travel expenditures.

Of 36,200,000 visitors from other countries, 35,800,000 entered Canada from the United States and 463,000 from overseas. Of 36,300,000 Canadian residents on visits abroad, 35,400,000 returned from the United States and 900,000 from overseas.

For Canada, the net result of international travel during 1969 was a \$218-million excess of payments over receipts, up from \$188 million in 1968.