

## NEW STAMP PROGRAMME FOR 1966

Canada will issue 11 commemorative postage stamps in 1966, it was announced recently by Mr. René Tremblay, the Postmaster General.

The series featuring the official flowers and armorial bearings of the provinces and territories will be concluded next year. Alberta and Saskatchewan will be honoured on January 19 and Newfoundland on February 23. Florals for the Yukon and Northwest Territories will be issued on March 23. This sequence, said Mr. Tremblay, was one of the ways in which the Post Office Department was marking the centennial. The series began on May 14, 1964, when the Maple Leaf-Unity stamp appeared. Ontario and Quebec were featured on June 30, 1964, followed by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on February 3, 1965. Prince Edward Island will be similarly honoured on July 21.

The three hundredth anniversary of the arrival of La Salle in Canada will provide the subject for another 1966 issue, which will go on sale April 20.

### STAMPS WITH A MESSAGE

May 18 has been chosen as the date of issue for a "highway-safety" stamp. The Postmaster General expressed the hope that this issue would make Canadians more aware of the needless toll of death on their roads.

The peaceful uses of atomic energy will be the theme of a stamp to appear on July 20. This date was chosen to coincide as closely as possible with the opening of the CANDU reactor at Douglas Point, Ontario, which has been scheduled for the summer of 1966.

The third stamp in a series commemorating the major steps leading up to Confederation will go on sale September 7. Its subject will be the London Conference. The Charlottetown Conference was featured on a stamp that went on sale July 29, 1964. The Quebec Conference issue was released on September 9 last year.

In 1966, for the third consecutive year, Canada will have Christmas stamps. Mr. Tremblay explained that these would be of the three-cent and five-cent denominations, those most commonly used for Christmas cards and letters.

All these stamps, except the three-cent Christmas issue, will be five cents in value.

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### MOTOR-VEHICLE SALES

The volume of sales of new passenger cars and commercial vehicles eased off 0.3 per cent in February to 54,630 units from 54,821 a year earlier, and 2.0 per cent in January-February, to 105,875 units from 108,082 a year ago. The retail value of these sales was up 1.0 per cent in the month, at \$178,737,000 versus \$177,034,000, but was little changed in the two months at \$350,015,000 versus \$349,995,000. Sales of new passenger cars rose 1.0 per cent in February, to 47,203 units (valued at \$151,116,000) from 46,713 (\$147,843,000) a year

earlier, but fell 0.3 per cent in the January-February period, to 91,166 units (\$294,067,000) from 91,434 (\$290,545,000).

February sales of Canadian and United States models fell 1.7 per cent, to 49,605 units (valued at \$168,254,000) from 50,481 (\$167,804,000) a year earlier, while January-February sales dropped 3.5 per cent, to 96,774 units (\$330,844,000) from 100,326 (\$333,589,000) a year ago. New passenger cars accounted for 42,312 units of total sales (\$140,993,000) in the month versus 42,548 (\$139,076,000) and for 82,311 units (\$275,550,000) in the two months versus 84,057 (\$275,110,000).

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### FORAGE-SEED MISSION TO EUROPE

A four-man trade mission left Canada May 9 on a three-week tour of Denmark, West Germany and France to study the prerequisites for increased forage-seed exports from Canada to Western Europe. The mission, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, is investigating the technical requirements that must be met to obtain official acceptance for a greater number of Canadian seeds, particularly forage-crop varieties. During the past year, total seed exports were valued at \$12.5 million, but the potential is considered to be far greater, since the number of varieties now permitted entry to certain markets is limited compared with the number available.

In each country, the mission members will meet officials of the seed industry and of relevant government departments. They will also attend a council meeting of the Federation internationale du Commerce des Semences (FIS) in Denmark.

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### EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS

Canada's industrial composite index of employment (1949 = 100) was 129.3 in February, virtually unchanged from January. Typically, employment declined moderately between January and February, owing to seasonal reductions in forestry, construction and trade; in 1965, however, employment declined much less than seasonally in forestry and construction, and showed little change in trade. Other industrial divisions recorded movements that did not differ substantially from the familiar seasonal patterns.

Canada's industrial composite, seasonally adjusted, advanced by 0.7 per cent from 135.0 in January to 135.9 in February. The large advance reflected increases in the seasonally-adjusted indexes for all major industrial divisions except manufacturing, which showed a small decline. About three-quarters of the increase originated in forestry, construction and trade, where the adjusted indexes rose by 9.3 per cent, 1.5 per cent, and 1.6 per cent respectively. Industrial disputes in the transportation-equipment group effected a decline of 0.3 per cent in the adjusted index for manufacturing.