

News briefs

Princess Margaret will visit Canada from July 18-27, Government House has announced. She will visit Alberta and Saskatchewan, attending celebrations marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of their entry into Confederation.

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada Marc Lalonde and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories John Parker, recently signed a Canada/Northwest Territories agreement for the development and demonstration of renewable energy and energy conservation technologies. Under the \$3.33-million agreement the Federal Government will contribute \$2.5 million and the Northwest Territories will contribute \$833,000 over the next four years for projects that will demonstrate or develop alternative energy technologies.

The spring session of the Alberta Legislature opened on March 20. The Speech from the Throne promised expanded programs to deal with the housing and skilled manpower shortages and greater financing for energy research projects. It repeated promises of co-operation with the Federal Government and other provinces to reduce dependence on imported oil.

An Australian airline has taken options on three DASH-7 aircraft produced by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. The Canadian company has sold out its DASH-7s to 1982 and its Twin Otter to 1981.

Algoma Steel Corp. Ltd. of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, has authorized Dravo Corp. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to proceed with detailed engineering for a 75-oven coke battery to be installed at Algoma's Sault Ste. Marie steel-making complex. The design, engineering and construction of the battery will be performed by Dravo in conjunction with

Carl Still AG of Recklinghausen, West Germany. The projected value of the coke oven battery is expected to be more than \$50 million. The project is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 1983.

Ontario's Minister of Industry and Tourism Lawrence Grossman returned recently from leading a trade mission to Australia. Australia is Canada's third-largest overseas market for manufactured goods. Ontario's exports to that country in 1979, were worth about \$17 million; in turn Ontario imported about \$84-million worth of Australian goods.

The Federal Government raised by 15 cents a barrel the special synthetic oil levy added to the wholesale cost of all oil products sold in Canada, effective April 1. The increase means higher prices for gasoline, diesel, heating oil, fuel oil and other oil feedstocks for private Canadians and for industries, effective immediately — roughly a half-cent a gallon increase in gasoline and diesel prices at the pump and a similar increase for heating oil and other fuel oils delivered to customer tanks.

Alberta will implement its own corporate tax system in the 1981 taxation year to give Albertans "greater control of our own provincial destiny", Treasurer Louis Hyndman announced recently. The new system will be more sensitive to provincial needs and offer incentives to help small businesses, he said.

Industrial corporations had profits totalling \$5.66 billion in the fourth quarter of 1979, up 33.1 per cent from \$4.25 billion a year earlier, Statistics Canada says. It was the eleventh consecutive quarter in which Canadian corporate profits have shown a gain from a year earlier. In the third quarter of 1979, profits were up 36.4 per cent.

Sales of new cars and trucks in Canada last year totalled a record 1,396,414 units, up 2.2 per cent from 1,366,544 in 1978, according to Statistics Canada. The value of the sales totalled \$11.5 billion, an increase of 19 per cent from \$9.6 billion the previous year.

Canadian crude oil production averaged 1,668,200 barrels daily in December 1979, Statistics Canada reports. Natural gas production averaged 11.6 billion cubic feet daily, up 0.7 per cent from 11.5 billion in December 1978.

Shipping in the Port of Montreal got off to a fast start this year with traffic in January and February up 34 per cent over the corresponding period last year,

the Montreal port authority said. More than 240 ocean-going vessels docked in Montreal, compared with 179 ships during the corresponding period last year, the authority said. The amount of cargo handled was up 49.5 per cent — 1.5 million metric tons in January and February this year, compared with 948,011 tons a year ago.

Norco Resources Ltd. of Vancouver says its underground coal mining project at Bowron River, east of Prince George, British Columbia, has advanced another step with the signing of an agreement in which a Japanese company will guarantee a \$1-million loan. Norco has a contract with Taiwan Power of Taiwan to supply coal for 25 years. When in production, the mine would create 600 jobs. Coal would be shipped to Canadian National Railways via a spur line to be built from the mine at a cost of \$18 million. It would be sent by rail to Prince Rupert, where the B.C. government is planning a big coal and grain port. The loan guarantee was signed with Kanematsu-Gosho (Canada) Inc., a subsidiary of Kanematsu-Gosho Ltd. of Japan.

New Brunswick International Paper Co. plans an \$86-million expansion program for its Dalhousie, New Brunswick newsprint mill. The program is expected to increase the mill's daily capacity for newsprint production from 802 tons to 1,100 tons by the end of 1982. The first stage of the program is replacement of a boiler that burns bark and other wood waste with a much larger unit at an estimated cost of \$16.1 million. Under present conditions, the new boiler will reduce the mill's consumption of imported fuel oil by more than 8,000 barrels daily.

Although he admitted going through a red light, 22-year-old Michael Magee skated around the law in court when a justice of the peace ruled that his roller-skates could not be considered a vehicle. Magee was charged with failing to yield after skating through a red light in downtown Hamilton at 6:15 a.m. January 15. He said later that he was "out for four hours that night, all over town, and if he had nabbed me at 2 o'clock (the police officer) might have got me for impaired skating". The judge conceded that "a rollerskater is a pedestrian rather than a driver or operator of a vehicle". Magee said he has been rollerskating for ten years and it has become his only means of transportation since his driver's licence was suspended for non-payment of fines.

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