

(continued from back page.)

He feels that the greatest enemy to poetic development, or indeed any kind of creative writing, lies in the allied professions to which writers so often turn for a living: notably journalism, which he tried for a while, and the teaching of literature in universities, to which he has given a lot of time and energy - "too much."

"The academic life shouldn't be an enemy to the creative life, but it is. It takes the writer and uses his talent as a writer for non-creative purposes under the guise of education."

About the younger generation of Canadian poets he is cheerfully enthusiastic: "They're good. They have more talent than us older poets have."

What does he see as the function of the poet in the world today? Earle Birney is too old and too young to find such a question difficult.

"All art is providing a momentary entertainment and escape, but a whole lot of artists won't admit that. I think also because it is an escape it has a consolatory function and the greater the art, I feel, the more it helps us to stay alive a little longer. Because there are so many reasons for not staying alive. . . Art for me is a human reassurance - all art, but particularly poetry. When I write a poem it is an attempt to reassure myself and anyone who reads it and hears it that we're both human and that we are therefore brothers and sisters. That the species hasn't divided in two quite yet."

Publishers

Publisher expands westward

A Canadian publishing house that was saved from sale or bankruptcy by a provincial government loan is now expanding.

The company, McClelland and Stewart Ltd. of Toronto, has formed a subsidiary company based in Calgary, Alberta.

Founded in 1906, the company has been Canada's oldest and largest book publishing firm since a rival firm, Ryerson Press, was sold in 1970 to United States interests.

McClelland and Stewart went up for sale in 1971. The Ontario government then granted the firm a \$961,000 loan, interest-free for five years.

Because of strong competition from U.S. publishers enjoying large markets, Canadian companies have often found financial survival difficult.

McClelland and Stewart specialize in publishing Canadian material.

Economic Digest

Balance of payments

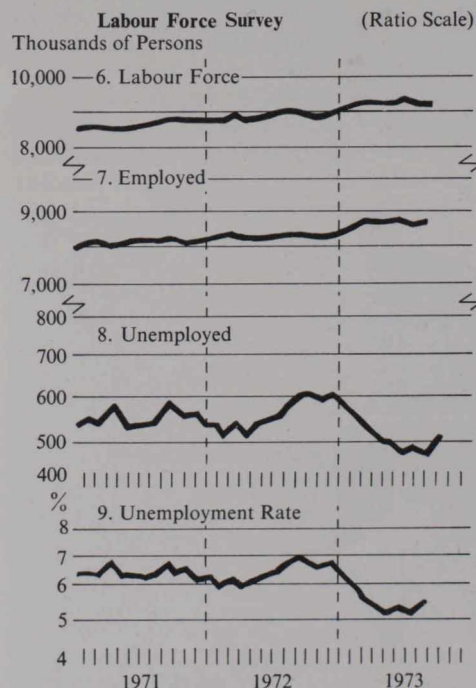
Canada recorded a current account surplus of \$31 million in the third quarter of 1973 as a trade surplus of \$338 million more than offset a deficit of \$307 million on non-merchandise transactions.

Capital account transactions produced a net outflow of about \$357 million. Very preliminary indications suggest a net capital inflow in long-term forms of approximately \$150 million, implying net outflows in short-term capital movements of some \$500 million.

Net official monetary movements led to a decrease in Canada's reserves of \$326 million during the quarter.

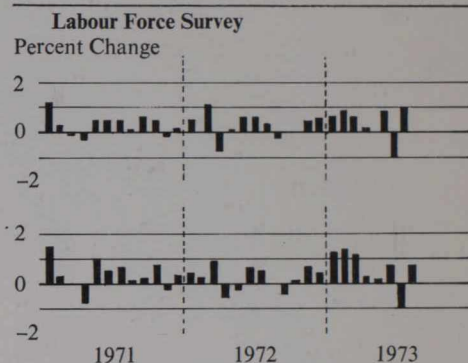
Labour force

The total number of jobless in Canada in November rose from the previous month but the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped slightly, Statistics Canada reports.



Latest figures show there were 468,000 unemployed in November, up from October's total of 429,000. There were 524,000 jobless in November, 1972. But the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate in November was 5.6% down from October's 5.8% and a full 1% lower than that of November last year.

The actual unemployment rate rose to 5% in November, up from 4.6% in October. In November, 1972, the actual rate was 5.9%. The total number of employed in the labour force dropped by 53,000 to a total of 8,829,000 in November. Total work force, including the jobless, was 9,297,000.



For the regions, the actual November jobless rates jumped to 8.2% from 7% in October in the Atlantic provinces, to 6.7% from 6% in Quebec, to 3.9% from 2.8% in the prairies and to 6.2% from 5% in British Columbia. In all regions, the actual jobless rates were substantially below figures for November, 1972.

Seasonally-adjusted jobless rates in the regions showed a mixed pattern with November decreases in the Atlantic, Ontario and British Columbia regions from October and increases in Quebec and the prairies.

Living costs

Food prices rose in Canada again in November and led to a rise in living costs on a broad front that also included increases for clothing, housing and medical care, Statistics Canada reported at mid-December.

The over-all increase in living costs was eight-tenths of one per cent and put prices in the one-year period up 9.3% continuing the worst Canadian inflation since 1951. The major contributors to the latest month's advance were higher prices for food, clothing and housing, which increased 1.2%, 1.1% and eight-tenths of 1% respectively. In addition, the component for health and personal care rose nine-tenths of 1%. The November price hikes put the government's Consumer Price Index up to 155.5 on its 1961 base of 100.

Gross National Product

Strikes and shortages of men and materials slowed Canada's third-quarter economic growth to well below levels earlier this year