

for the total immigrant movement was 25 per cent. The Minister also indicated that the match between the skills of immigrants and vacant jobs in Canada continues to improve.

Ontario continued to lead all provinces with 15,790 immigrants, followed by Quebec with 6,023, British Columbia 4,857, Alberta 3,051, Manitoba 1,236, Saskatchewan 494, New Brunswick 318, Nova Scotia 303, Newfoundland 177, Yukon and Northwest Territories 59 and Prince Edward Island 51.

The top five main occupational categories are: clerical 2,216; fabricating, assembling and repairing 2,031; natural sciences, engineering and mathematics 1,566; service industries 1,322; and managerial and administrative 1,185.

Source

Following trends of recent years, Europe remains the major source of immigrants; however, the flow declined to 35 per cent from 42.2 per cent in the first quarter a year ago. Asia and the Pacific increased to 26.9 per cent from 24.3 per cent; Africa and the Middle East increased to 8.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent; Western Hemisphere increased to 19.6 per cent from 17.3 per cent; and the United States increased to 9.7 per cent from 8.8 per cent.

Although totals are down, Britain and the United States continue to lead the list of top ten source countries.

'Visual telephone' could help handicapped communicate

A television documentary about the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre in Toronto gave Herb Bown an idea how children, who can neither speak nor write, could be helped to communicate. Staff at the Centre had physically

handicapped children using symbols to express an idea, a system developed by Charles Bliss, an Australian.

Mr. Bown's idea was to combine the symbols with a project, called image communications, at the Communications Research Centre at Shirley Bay, near Ottawa.

The demonstration system put together at CRC basically comprises large TV-like monitors connected to telephones. It makes it possible for one person to draw pictures and for another to see them at the other end of a telephone connection and both can act as if they have the same piece of paper to write on.

"We are developing a visual telephone, using the existing narrow band communication system, i.e., the telephone network. We want to provide people at a distance with a common visual space to use a pictographic language," says Mr. Bown.

He believes children at the Centre could be taught how to use the visual system. The symbols could be put in various combinations on screens to express sentences or even to tell

stories.

The in-house system has not actually been tried out at the Children's Centre for lack of resources. The way such a system would work has, however, been simulated in the communications laboratory at Shirley Bay.

"We are simulating systems, not developing a piece of hardware, in our communications lab," Mr. Bown explains. Mr. Bown and co-worker Bill Sawchuck presented a paper entitled "Interactive graphics applied to symbol communications for non-speaking children" at the annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, of the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada (AMTEC).

Many applications of image communications are envisaged. One for teaching would permit a student and teacher to discuss design of an electrical circuit. "We both sit at terminals," says Professor James Wells of the University of Manitoba, who spent a sabbatical year at CRC working on the project. "We use the computer to do some computations and display some information about the design we've just created."

News briefs

- Finance Minister Donald Macdonald eased anti-inflation controls on business September 8 in a review of the federal anti-inflation program, citing the need for more investment to create jobs and to avoid generating renewed inflation. A key change will permit investment credit for companies that invest in eligible new productive operations. They will be permitted to deduct 50 per cent of the value of these investments from any excess revenues in calculating allowable profits under the controls program. Counting investment credits, this means that companies will be able to increase present allowable profits by up to 10 per cent.
- Exports of crude oil to the U.S. will be reduced by 15,000 barrels a day to 435,000 on October 1, the National Energy Board said September 13. The cut results from an expected increase during October in the flow of western oil by pipeline into Montreal, which formerly was available for export.
- Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie says he can offer no easy solution for the gold mining industry, where econ-

omic troubles threaten to put miners out of work, especially in the Timmins, Ontario, area. Mining companies developed a renewed interest in gold when prices went to \$200 an ounce. But now that prices have dropped to about \$105 while production costs are still above \$130, the companies are seeking a federal subsidy. If Ottawa subsidized the cost of mining gold, how could it turn down other sectors when they came seeking aid, the Minister asks.

- The Canadian dollar has been rising in value against the U.S. dollar in trading on the inter-bank wholesale market. At the end of August it passed the \$1.02 (U.S.) level for the first time since August 3.
- To meet the increasing competition for deposits among financial institutions, the Toronto-Dominion Bank has waived the service charge for cheques on personal chequing accounts in which a minimum balance of \$200 has been maintained.
- Cutbacks in the civil service and government programs in Manitoba have been announced as the provincial government tries to reduce expenditures by between \$18 million and \$30 million.

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