

ONTARIO'S NEW PREMIER

Mr. William Davis, Ontario Minister of Education, has become Premier-elect of Ontario, replacing the retiring Premier John Robarts.

At a leadership convention in Toronto on February 13, Mr. Davis defeated the Minister of Mines, Mr. Allan Lawrence, on the final ballot, by 669 to 606 votes, while Mr. Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, with 346, was eliminated. Mr. Robert Welch, Provincial Secretary, Mr. Bert Lawrence, Minister of Financial Affairs, and Mr. Robert Pharand, a university graduate student, were eliminated on earlier ballots.

Mr. Davis will form the new Ontario government on March 1.

Mr. Robarts, 54, became Premier of Ontario in 1961 and was re-elected in 1963 and 1967.

TRAINER PLANES REPLACED

The Department of Supply and Services will purchase 25 light aircraft for the Department of National Defence to replace the *Chipmunk* pilot trainers now becoming obsolete, which have been in service with the Canadian Forces since 1948. *Chipmunk* airframe spares are no longer being produced, while engine spares have to be specially manufactured, with lead times of up to two years.

The new trainers, called *Musketeers*, are manufactured by Beech Aircraft Corporation, Wichita, Kansas. Delivery will begin in March and will be completed in September, after which the *Chipmunk* will be phased out of service.

The *Musketeer Custom III*, a single-engine low-wing monoplane, is powered by a 180-hp *Lycoming* engine that has a maximum speed of 151 mph, a cruising speed of 143 mph and a stall speed of 59 mph. Its range is 685 miles non-stop, with a fuel reserve sufficient for an additional 45 minutes of flight. The new aircraft has dual flight controls with "side-by-side" seating for the instructor and student pilot.

The total cost of the program is estimated at \$825,000, which includes the cost of 25 aircraft, necessary spares and support equipment. The *Musketeers* will operate from Canadian Forces Base Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

SPORTS HALL OF FAME GRANT

The National Health and Welfare Minister, Mr. John Munro, has announced a \$10,000-federal grant to the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, in recognition of its support of the Canada Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was opened in 1955 following discussions by sports representatives from all provinces and CNE officials. Each year more than 1.5 million people visit the Hall on the CNE grounds.

ASSURED MAIL DELIVERY PROGRAM

Mr. Jean-Pierre Côté, Minister responsible for the Post Office, recently announced a new development in the distribution of mail — the Assured Mail Delivery Program, which was introduced in Toronto on February 1 and will be implemented in other cities across Canada during 1971 and 1972. "Assured Mail" is a system whereby the Canada Post Office guarantees a delivery schedule for first-class mail provided it is posted during specified periods. The service will be domestic, and will not apply to letters destined for other countries.

"The 'assured mail' will be offered at regular first-class rates," Mr. Côté said. "I am also satisfied that it will not deteriorate the overall quality of service given to mails deposited after the assured times."

The program will at first affect only mail originating in Toronto. However, since 60 per cent of the mail originating in that city is addressed to other communities, the effect of Assured Mail Delivery will be felt immediately in most parts of the country.

The program is based on two schedules — one for coast-to-coast delivery, the other for delivery to central Canadian points.

Letters dropped into any mail-box in the City of Toronto before 11 a.m. will reach their destination on the next delivery day in all major centres in central, southern, and eastern Ontario. Initially, too, AMD will benefit: Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Moncton, New Brunswick; Montreal and Quebec City, Quebec; North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Ontario; Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; St. John's, Newfoundland; Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Letters posted before 3 p.m. in special letter-boxes marked with a band of distinctive white and blue stripes will have assured next-delivery-day service to all major centres in central, southern and eastern Ontario as well as to North Bay, Sudbury and Montreal.

The familiar red boxes located in residential areas will offer only the 11 a.m. deadline. The specially striped boxes, located on main thoroughfares and in commercial areas, including shopping centres, will offer both the 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. deadlines for Assured Mail. Mail posted after 3 p.m. in striped boxes will be picked up and processed in the normal way.

By encouraging earlier posting in return for assured delivery, the Post Office will be able to shift peak loads ahead during the day.

The new system will be extended on April 1 to first-class mail originating in Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. Vancouver will join the program on May 1, Ottawa on June 1 and Montreal on July 1. By the end of 1972 most cities in Canada will be served by the new program.