

BLIND INSTITUTE GOLDEN JUBILEE

In his message on the fiftieth anniversary of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the President, Mr. George C. Thompson, spoke as follows of some of the achievements of the CNIB:

...On January 9 the sod-turning took place, and on March 29 the corner-stone was laid for the "Arthur V. Weir Building" - the National Training and Vocational Guidance Centre, and the CNIB's major project for our fiftieth anniversary year. The new Centre, which will provide residence facilities for 40 persons and which is being built on the Baker Wood property in Toronto at a cost of \$950,000, will permit the CNIB to offer assessment and training to the employable blind of Canada on a scale not previously possible. With facilities for researching job opportunities formerly beyond the range of the visually handicapped, the Arthur V. Weir Building will truly provide a giant step in rehabilitation and will help in training blind persons for the automated careers of tomorrow.

FOUNDERS' DAY

CNIB came into being March 30, 1918. The anniversary was celebrated in a special way on March 29 this year. It was the occasion of the corner-stone laying of the Arthur V. Weir Building and also the presentation on behalf of National Council of the first five of the 50 golden jubilee awards to blind and sighted Canadians in recognition of distinguished service to the blind of Canada. The presentations took place in the presence of representatives from our eight divisions at a special dinner in honour of the seven illustrious founders of the CNIB.

CNIB HISTORY

Such birthday celebrations would not be complete without a written record of the early struggle and eventual progress that went into the growth of CNIB, and to this purpose our Public Relations Department researched and produced an excellent history of our great organization. With editions both in English and French, the new publication will prove a valuable source of information not only to all associated with us, but also those in government and the general public.

NEW FLAG

Further significant events to mark the anniversary through the entire year include a CNIB flag in the traditional blue and gold colours of the Institute. Since early January the flag has been on view from most of our 50 offices across the nation. A television announcement was shown from time to time in the public service segments of most of Canada's individual TV stations, including both networks.

It was appropriate during the anniversary year that several new services should be set in motion in the prevention of blindness. The Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador Divisions inaugurated screenings of preschool children. In this way, numerous eye conditions that, left untreated, would cause the loss of sight in one eye, were brought to the

attention of medical persons. Five divisions undertook glaucoma surveys for staff, board and auxiliary members. Through this service more than 50 persons were found with elevated pressures and advised to have a thorough eye examination. In most cases, further loss of sight was prevented.

DEATHS IN 1968

The year saw the passing of two distinguished Canadians - Colonel Edwin A. Baker, one of the CNIB Founders and our Honorary President, and Sandford Leppard, one of our eminent Vice-Presidents who died at the age of 106 years. Widely different in interests and achievements, both men were equally zealous in their service to the blind. They will long be remembered in the history of the CNIB....

INDIA-PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced last week that Canada was providing \$30,000 in emergency assistance to India and Pakistan to aid the victims of widespread flooding.

Floods have hit East Pakistan along the Bay of Bengal and have caused heavy damage in the Indian states of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujerat, Kerala and Tripura. The total number of casualties is not yet known, but the latest reports from Pakistan indicate that 100 persons have died, 2.5 million have had to be evacuated from flooded areas and 1.5 million acres of farm land have been badly damaged. Preliminary reports from India show that about 2 million persons have been rendered homeless and 30,000 square kilometers of farm land have been badly damaged.

The Canadian emergency assistance will be provided through the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva, which has issued an international appeal for help. It will be evenly divided between the two recipient countries and will be provided as cash so that the League of Red Cross Societies may meet on-the-spot requirements. The gift matches the contribution of the Canadian Red Cross.

PRIME MINISTER AT STRATFORD

Prime Minister Trudeau, accompanied by Secretary of State Pelletier and Forestry and Rural Development Minister Marchand, spent a weekend at Stratford, Ontario, recently, attending performances of *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Seagull* and *Tartuffe*, by the Stratford Festival Company.

Mr. Trudeau was the guest of honour at two receptions during his stay, one of which was given by performers and members of the Festival Committee.

The value of Canadian gold production for May, calculated at the average price paid by the Royal Canadian Mint, was \$9,067,613. May production was 240,354 troy ounces (255,579 in May 1967).