

MINT TO BE CROWN CORPORATION

The Royal Canadian Mint is to become a Crown Corporation under terms of the proposed Government Reorganization Act introduced last month in the House of Commons.

The Mint, which has been a branch of the Department of Finance since 1931, will be established as an agency corporation, reporting to Parliament through the Minister of Supply and Services, Mr. Don C. Jamieson.

The change is designed to provide for a more industrial type of organization and for flexibility in producing coins of Canada and of other countries for buying, selling, melting, assaying and refining gold and precious metals, and for producing medals, plaques and other devices.

The Mint, which will have a seven-man board of directors appointed by the Governor-in-Council, will operate basically as a manufacturing enterprise. It will negotiate prices of its products and fees for its services, and buy supplies to best advantage. The negotiation of prices for coins of Canada (the main product of the Mint) will be conducted with the Minister of Finance, taking into account costs of procurement and production.

LABOUR RELATIONS

Labour relations at the Mint will be subject to the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, with the Mint management responsible for collective bargaining. Employees will have the right to strike with the exception of a provision relating to outside procurement.

Benefits now enjoyed by the staff of the Mint, such as government superannuation, group surgical and medical insurance, and workmen's compensation will be preserved by deeming the staff to be public

servants for purposes of relevant legislation providing the benefits. Collective agreements now in force will remain in effect until the end of their specified term.

OPERATING FUNDS

Financial and budgeting arrangements of the Mint are to be similar to those of other Crown companies carrying on industrial or commercial operations. It is expected to be able to adjust coin production to demand more easily because its operating funds will no longer be subject to Parliamentary appropriations each year. Operations will be conducted with the aim of making a small profit. Surplus accumulations above a reserve fund of \$1 million will be transferred to the consolidated revenue fund. Funds for capital requirements of the Mint will be loaned to it by the Government, and it will be expected to repay these with interest.

NEW BUILDING

A new site and new facilities for the Mint are planned for early next year. The existing main Mint building, erected in 1908, was designed for the minting of 30 million pieces a year. An extension built in 1952 increased capacity to 100 million pieces on the basis of a single shift a day. In 1968, working on a three-shift, 24-hour basis and making extensive purchases of semi-processed material, the Mint produced more than 750 million pieces on the same premises.

The new building and equipment should make it possible for the Mint to produce adequate supplies of coin for Canada and for export, and to produce required quantities of bronze strip and to melt and roll nickel for coinage.

SUZOR-CÔTÉ STAMP

A new multi-coloured 50-cent Canadian stamp will be released on March 14 to mark the hundredth anniversary of the year in which Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Côté was born. Most of the area of the new issue, which is 40mm. x 24mm., will be devoted to a reproduction of "Return from the Harvest Field", a canvas executed by Suzor-Côté in 1903 and used on the stamp by special permission of Canada's National Gallery. To avoid superimposing design elements on the art reproduction, all the wording has been included in a small vertical white panel to the extreme right of the stamp: "Canada", "50" and "Postes Postage" on the upper three lines and below, "Suzor-Côté", arranged on two lines, and "1869-1937", the years of the artist's birth and death.

The new issue, which is produced by a more costly process, will remain on sale for a longer

period than usual. Six million of the new stamps will be printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd., Ottawa.

PAINTER AND SCULPTOR

Suzor-Côté, an internationally recognized painter and sculptor, was born at Arthabaska, Quebec, in April 1869. He is reputed to be one of the first native-born Canadians whose works, presumably as a result of associations with painters during European travels, were directly influenced by the "old world's impressionism of the 1860s". His name has been linked with Monet, Whistler, Pissarro, Manet and others as a result of his light-filled interpretations of Canadian landscapes highlighted by touches of pure pigment. Evidence of his versatility, and a leaning to impressionism, is to be found in some 40 or 50 beautifully executed small bronze figures and groups. The Suzor-Côté collection in the National Gallery in Ottawa, consists of 11 paintings,