

## There goes the neighbourhood



Headed for Saltspring Island in the Gulf of Georgia between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland, these houses were sold recently by Public Works of Canada for \$100 to an undisclosed bidder. The houses were built in 1927 for the superintendent of the Esquimalt graving dock and his assistant.

### News briefs

Jean Marchand has been appointed to the post of president of the Canadian Transport Commission. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Marchand was Speaker of the Senate.

CN Railways sees a \$16-billion expansion for Canada's railways in the next decade, and has announced its \$35-million start, for railway ties. Twice as many hardwood ties will be bought in eastern Canada — 1.3 million — and a third more softwood ties from the west — 2.1 million — all of which will need \$14 million of chemical treatment.

Domtar will spend \$912 million on re-building and modernizing. The fine paper mill near Sherbrooke, Quebec will get a \$773-million rebuild over the next six years, and a \$139-million modernization is scheduled for the other fine paper mill at Cornwall, Ontario. The decision followed years of study, and was conditional on the availability of government grants, wood supply and environmental agreements. Domtar is Canada's largest fine paper producer, with major exports. 1982 sales were \$466 million.

New beers are good for Carling O'Keefe and profits have risen 74 per cent in the past 18 months. The rise began last year with the introduction of three new Carlsberg beers and accelerated after May 1983

when Miller beer took 10 per cent of the market in its trial period, despite a low beer market. Corporate profits were up 74 per cent to \$38 million on sales of \$784 million in the latest fiscal year. A \$150-million building program has begun and new operations will come on-stream in Calgary, Alberta and Vancouver, British Columbia by mid-1984.

Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$110.5-million (US) loan agreement to support a sale to Turkey by Northern Telecom Limited of Mississauga, Ontario. The sale involves the supply of telephone switching equipment, telephone sets and related engineering and technical services to the General Directorate of The Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration of the Republic of Turkey. The contract will provide smaller centres in Turkey with rapid communications with major cities, including Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir, and with telephone users in other countries.

ROLM Canada Inc. of Toronto has announced the IBM Telephone Message Management System, which enables businesses to provide callers with information about an employee who is out of the office. The system is among the first products to result from an agreement last June of International Business Machines Corp. of Armonk, New York and ROLM Corp. of Santa Clara, California to en-

hance their respective product lines. The system attendant can also enter messages, which users can retrieve throughout the work site.

The Quebec government has awarded a \$30-million five-year contract to a Quebec-France consortium for 45 000 educational microcomputers, Premier René Lévesque announced recently. The deal with the consortium formed by Montreal-based Bytech-Comterm Inc. and Matra-Informatique of Paris will give Quebecers an opportunity to develop computer software and penetrate the international market. The contract specifies that 51 per cent of the first 10 000 microcomputers to be delivered within 18 months will be manufactured in Quebec under a licencing agreement. The microcomputers, costing \$3 000 each, will be used by computer science students at secondary schools and colleges.

The Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) has awarded a contract valued at \$67 125 (Cdn.) to Bell Camp Manufacturing Ltd., Ingersoll, Ontario for liquid manure spreaders to be supplied to Agro-tek, a Hungarian-owned trading company. Bell Camp Manufacturing Limited, a Canadian-owned company, has sold 50 such spreaders this year, both to the domestic market and abroad. This is the first time Bell Camp has contracted to sell to Hungary and the first time it has been awarded a contract by CCC.

December 1983, equalled December 1933, as the coldest of the twentieth century, the Winnipeg weather office says. The mean temperature for the month was minus 20.3 degrees Celsius, more than six degrees below normal. The coldest day of the month, and the coldest for all of 1983, was December 19, when the temperature fell to minus 33 degrees Celsius.

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