

News briefs

Canadians save more of their income than Americans, Australians, British, French and Japanese, according to Statistics Canada's publication *Inklings*. In 1981 well over 12 per cent of Canadians' pay cheques was salted away to the tune of \$28 billion. Almost \$30 of every \$100 saved was held in chartered banks. The next \$20 went into pension plans and \$12 in a life insurance fund. The rest was spread around in trust companies, credit unions and investment funds. The least popular place for savings was trust company retirement savings plans which received only 20 cents.

Two Canadian universities are promoting food, fuel and chemical production for the Third World. The Microbiological Research Centre, being established by the Universities of Guelph and Waterloo in Ontario, will research fermentation and biomass conversion. This will aid biotechnology applications in underdeveloped countries. Biomass describes anything that is alive or that once lived, and that can be converted by fermentation and other methods to food, fuel and chemicals. Biomass materials include a large number of waste products of agriculture, forestry and the paper-making and food-processing industries. The centre will also train scientists from Third World countries.

The newly-formed Asia Pacific Foundation is working to raise Canada's Pacific consciousness. Last year, Asia provided 40 per cent of the new arrivals to Canada, compared with only 29 per cent from Europe. Asian markets took a record \$8.6-billion worth of Canadian goods, while Canadian exports to Western Europe, worth \$10 billion as recently as 1981, slipped to \$7.5 billion. The Vancouver-based foundation is raising funds for educational and media exchanges, Asian language training centres, seminars for business and government leaders, and an information network through which Canadians involved in the Asia-Pacific area can contact and assist each other.

Blueberries have become something of a cult fruit in Japan and have become one of eastern Canada's most valuable markets for the fruit. Canadian blueberry sales to Japan totalled less than 50 tonnes in 1978. But sales rose to 2 500 tonnes last year, worth more than \$3 million. Japanese use the berries as flavouring for chewing gum, in toppings for ice cream and in yogurt drinks.

Multilingual keyboards



George Sanders, a designer at the IBM Canada Ltd. Laboratory in Toronto, creates letters in the Thai alphabet for use on keyboards to be marketed in Thailand. At IBM, the National Language Technical Centre develops strategies for supporting IBM products in more than 20 national languages.

A formal agreement establishing direct cultural, economic and technological exchange links between Saskatchewan and the Chinese province of Jilin will be signed in June in Regina. The decision for the "twinning" of the two provinces followed a meeting between Premier Grant Devine and Jilin governor Zhao Xiu. The actual agreement will be completed when a Jilin delegation headed by the governor travels to Saskatchewan next June. The arrangements will make Saskatchewan the second Canadian province to have a formal twinning agreement with a Chinese province. Alberta has already twinned with Heilongjiang, a province directly northeast of Jilin.

A Montreal company has won \$16-million worth of electrical equipment orders from countries throughout the world. The equipment, says ASEA Inc., consists primarily of transformers, relays, and protection and control systems. ASEA will be supplying the equipment to the United States, Honduras, India, China, Argentina and the Ivory Coast.

Ontario manufacturers specializing in telecommunications and energy products brought home \$4.5 million in initial export orders from a recent trade mission

to India. The mission, involving 17 companies, was organized by the Canadian Manufacturers Association with the Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers Association of Canada, and sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Northern Telecom International Ltd., a unit of Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario, has been awarded a \$1-million contract to supply its fully digital SL-1 private branch exchange to the Peking Hotel in Peking. It is the second S-1 to be sold in China.

Partagec Inc. of Quebec has announced an agreement with the National Research Council to develop and distribute nationally bilingual National Authoring Language (Natal) courseware for such applications as cardiac arrest treatment. Partagec will use Telidon technology in the \$759 000, 18-month project. The organization is a non-profit venture created in 1965 to provide auxiliary services to social service institutions in the Quebec area.

Alcan Aluminium Ltd. of Montreal will build its \$1-billion Laterrière smelter in the Saguenay area north of Quebec City in three phases, timed to international metal market swings. The smelter, which will have an annual capacity of 248 000 tonnes when completed about 1990, will bring Alcan's total Quebec primary aluminum capacity to 927 000 tonnes, including 796 000 tonnes in the Saguenay.

Fathom Oceanology Ltd. of Mississauga, Ont., has received a \$1-million contract from the Department of National Defence. The contract is for the manufacture and supply of four C-5 hull outfit systems and two hull-mount sonar domes for the Canadian navy.

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