

Federal election – voters abroad

Some 25,800 Canadians – excluding tourists – will be eligible to cast their ballots outside the country in the July 8 federal election, Jean-Marc Hamel, chief electoral officer, stated recently.

Only members of the armed services and public servants such as the staff of Canadian embassies abroad may vote on the special advance dates, as provided for in the Canada Elections Act, but people working for non-governmental agencies and vacationers are exempt.

Other people who may vote by advance poll in Canada are the elderly and infirm and, according to the Elections Act, anyone having any reason to believe they will be unable to vote on election day. Election officials believe that there will be a large turn-out of voters at the advance polls since July 8 falls during the holiday season.

Withdrawal from Vientiane

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that on May 8 the Canadian Government had informed interested Governments that the Canadian delegation to the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos would be withdrawn from Vientiane on June 15. Canada, however, remains a member of the Commission which was formed in 1962 to supervise the ceasefire in Laos and the Canadian delegation could return to Laos should its presence be required again under the terms of the 1962 agreement.

Mr. Sharp also announced that Canada had raised with the new Laotian Government the matter of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Laos.

Canada/Iran trade pact soon

Canada and Iran have agreed to negotiate their first trade agreement in the very near future which, a Canadian minister says, should soon be worth \$1 billion in trade between the two countries.

The decision to conclude a trade agreement was reached during a visit

last month by Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who told reporters in Tehran that the agreement should lead to \$1-billion worth of trade between Canada and Iran within a few years.

Officials of the two governments will meet soon to prepare the text of the agreement.

Mr. Gillespie also raised the possibility of Iran using Canadian expertise to begin producing heavy water there for nuclear power reactors as a by-product of its petrochemical industry. This arose when Mr. Gillespie explained the advantages of the Canadian nuclear power system – the Candu – which uses heavy water as moderator.

The information was included in a press statement issued jointly in Tehran by Mr. Gillespie and his host, Iran's Minister of the Economy, Hushang Ansary. Mr. Gillespie had an audience with the Shah and met other Iranian ministers. He headed a Canadian trade mission of 36 leading businessmen, industrialists and journalists.

Woman of Labrador autobiography

A trapper's life in Labrador during the 1920s and '30s was dangerous and difficult, but for his wife it was also lonely and sometimes terrifying. For five months of the year she lived alone with her children, the nearest human inhabitants often many days away by dog-team. She worked constantly, sewing sealskin boots, making soap from seal tallow, hunting, fishing, scrubbing the rough log floors smooth with sand, coping alone with disease, injury and death. There was also joy in simple things: the glorious beauty of the land, the unfailing hospitality of friends and strangers, the serenity and contentment of these last Canadian pioneers.

Elizabeth Goudie, born in 1902 in Mud Lake, Labrador, lived this life and recalls it simply and with pride in a recently published book, *Woman of Labrador*, which is probably the only autobiography by a native Labradorian.

It documents a time and a culture almost unknown to anyone not a part of it. Mrs. Goudie describes the incredible impact of the establishment of air bases at Goose Bay during the



Mrs. Elizabeth Goudie presents her book, *Woman of Labrador*, to Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian. M.P. for Labrador, W. Rompkey looks on.

Second World War which wrenched the mixed Indian, Eskimo and White population of Labrador into a new age. She accepts these changes with grace and humour. But she remembers the early days with love.

David Zimmerly, an ethnology specialist with the National Museum of Man, has edited Mrs. Goudie's work and has also written an introduction.

"M" and maple leaf symbolize use of metric system

A stylized M and maple leaf symbolize metric conversion in Canada, and will be used extensively to draw attention to the conversion process now taking place.

The new symbol, made public by S.M. Gossage, Chairman of the Metric Commission, in a press conference following the Metric Commission meeting recently, can be applied to a wide variety of goods and products produced in metric measurements in all sectors of the economy.

The growing use of this distinctive symbol will mark Canada's adoption of the simplest, most advanced and universal metric measurement system – the International System of Units, or "SI" (from *Système International d'Unités*).

The use of the symbol on products has a variety of advantages to indivi-