

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR INSTALLED

On November 23, His Excellency Nouredin Kia presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iran to Canada. The ceremony took place at Government House, where the Chief of Protocol of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. Henry F. Davis, presented the Ambassador to the Governor General. Mr. Kia was accompanied by Mr. Hassan Handjani, First Secretary.

Mr. Nouredin Kia, a career Foreign Service Officer since 1940, has served in Palestine and Turkey and at the United Nations in New York. Since 1958 he has been the Administrative Director-General of the Iranian Ministry of External Affairs.

ARMY BOOSTS BILINGUALISM

The Canadian Regular Army plans to increase its standard of bilingualism.

Three junior officers from English-speaking regiments are studying French at the depot of the Royal 22nd Regiment in Quebec City; they will eventually be posted to a "Van Doos" battalion for a tour of duty. Three French-Canadian officers from the Royal 22nd Regiment will take their places with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The "cross-posting", as the Army calls it, is one of the several training plans in effect to ensure that the Army becomes as bilingual as possible.

DAWSON FESTIVAL PLANS

Encouraged by the enthusiastic reaction of visitors to this year's Dawson City Festival, the Festival Foundation was prompted to hold its annual general meeting three months earlier than planned. Originally scheduled to be held in January of next year, the meeting was re-dated to last October. This date enabled the planners to begin early planning of the many attractions that enhance the fabled Klondike area.

Further encouragement was given to the Festival Foundation directors by an increasing demand for information by travel agents and transportation companies in the United States and Canada. Though final details have not been officially released, the Foundation has indicated that travel arrangements can be made directly by agents across the country without the necessity of dealing through a "wholesaler".

Many segments of the travel industry are represented on the directorate of the Foundation for the coming year, assuring a close liaison between planners and potential customers. One of several committees appointed at the annual meeting drafted a campaign to provide detailed, factual information to travel agents, transportation companies and the general public. Proposed pamphlets will graphically answer the usual tourist queries: "How do I get

there", "How much will it cost" and "What shall I be able to see and do?". An all-out publicity campaign is scheduled to get under way in February 1963.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The number of occupied dwellings in Canada, excluding hotels, institutions, etc. climbed by 1,145,198 or 33.6 per cent in the 1951-61 decade, according to a report just released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This report, derived from a 20 per cent sample of the occupied dwellings in Canada, provides a summary of specified housing characteristics from the 1961 Housing Census for provinces, counties and census divisions, as well as for incorporated cities, towns and villages of 10,000 population and over.

The increase in dwellings brought the total at June 1 last year to 4,554,493, compared to the 1951 Census total of 3,409,295. This meant a rate of increase in occupied dwellings of 33.6 per cent, exceeding the total growth of 30.2 per cent in Canada's population during the same period.

LEADING PROVINCIAL FIGURES

All provinces shared in the increase in numbers of occupied dwellings. Alberta had the largest proportionate gain, with an increase of 39.5 per cent and 99,059 dwellings, while Ontario was first numerically, with an increase of 459,625 dwellings, but second in rate of increase with 38.9 per cent. Quebec was a close third in rate of increase at 37.7 per cent and second in numerical growth at 332,583.

Almost two out of five dwellings were constructed since 1945. This is reflected in the proportion of dwellings in need of major repair, which dropped from 13.4 per cent in 1951 to 5.6 per cent in 1961. Changes in the living standards of Canadian householders in the past ten years are reflected in the rise in the proportion of dwellings equipped with such living conveniences as hot and cold running water (80 per cent in 1961, compared to 57 per cent in 1951), installed bath or shower (80 per cent in 1961, 61 per cent in 1951), flush toilet (85 per cent in 1961, 68 per cent in 1951), mechanical refrigerator (91 per cent in 1961, 47 per cent in 1951), automobile (68 per cent in 1961, 42 per cent in 1951). Of significance, too, is the fact that 83 per cent of Canadian homes had one or more television sets at the 1961 Census date.

HOME VALUES

The median value of homes for Canada as a whole amounted to \$11,021, ranging provincially from \$4,311 in Newfoundland to \$12,952 in Ontario. It should be noted that these values are based on owner-occupied, single-detached, non-farm dwellings only. Average monthly cash rent, based on non-farm dwellings of all types, amounted to \$65 for Canada and ranged from \$48 in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to \$76 in Ontario.