

CANADIAN HOUSES FOR BRITAIN

The implementation of a joint Canada-Britain housing project at Harlow, England, was announced in London recently by the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada and the Harlow Development Corporation. A formal agreement as to respective responsibilities in the form of a "letter of intent" has been signed by the Canadian Government and accepted by the Harlow Development Corporation in consultation with the British Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Under this agreement, the project is being paid for by the British authorities.

Following a visit to Canada in 1963, sponsored by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, members of a British housing mission issued a report outlining their findings on the practices and techniques used in Canadian house-building. This report included a recommendation that the Canadian and British Governments co-operate in the construction in Britain of a medium-density project of about 200 dwellings, using Canadian methods of timber-frame construction.

CMHC DESIGN

Following consultations between Canadian authorities and government and local authorities in Britain, a site made available by the Harlow Development Corporation was selected. The co-ordination of this project, and others stemming from the recommendations of the 1963 mission, is the responsibility of Department of Trade and Commerce. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as agent for the Canadian Government, is responsible for the supervision of the design and construction of the Harlow project. CMHC will be reimbursed for the services of its architects, "nominated" by the Harlow Development Corporation on the basis of a standard scale of fees established by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST

This project is a follow-up to the three pairs of demonstration houses erected in Britain last year by the Canadian Government - a scheme based on the first recommendation of the 1963 mission. These houses, which were built to demonstrate the techniques of timber-frame construction as well as the speed of erection, the use of new tools and equipment and the standard of finishes obtainable, have evoked widespread interest among the thousands of British builders, architects, engineers and housing authorities who have visited them.

The main object of the medium-density housing project at Harlow is to prove, in terms of cost and value for money, that houses built using Canadian timber-frame construction methods are viable in Britain. The project will also show the architectural and town-planning possibilities of a fairly large estate using this form of construction, to a density of 12 dwellings an acre. The layout designed by CMHC provides for a total of 173 housing units on the 14½-acre site. It is expected that, following acceptance of a contract bid, construction will commence by mid-summer 1966.

STUDY OF CAREER CHOICES

Starting in October, an intensive study will be made in Canada of the career aspirations and plans of about 150,000 students attending 400 representative secondary schools throughout the ten provinces. This research programme, conducted by the Department of Labour in co-operation with the provincial departments of education, is the first study of this kind to be made in Canada on a nation-wide basis. Its aim is to provide greater understanding of the transition in young people's lives as they move from school into the working world.

The study will concentrate mainly on the important influence of the school system on the choice of lifetime careers by young people. A follow-up study will examine how these original career goals compare with actual experience in the working world.

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH APPEAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently urged Canadian youth to support the Young World Mobilization Appeal, which is to be launched on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN on October 16. He paid tribute to the many groups of young Canadians across the country who had taken the initiative in strengthening the Appeal, which is intended primarily to draw the attention, enthusiasm and voluntary efforts of young people in developed countries to the problems of poverty, disease and ignorance in the developing countries of the world. The Appeal will last for 21 weeks, and young people throughout the world will be asked to give 21 hours of their time to international development activities such as discussion groups, film showings and seminars, as well as fund raisings, book exchanges and participation in numerous aid projects. The Minister drew particular attention to the fact that some young people had planned for Thanksgiving weekend on Parliament Hill as an example of their effort and concern.

Mr. Martin described private and voluntary efforts by those Canadians represented by the Young World Mobilization Appeal as a most significant supplement to government programmes of assistance to developing countries. In this connection he noted that Canada's programme of assistance to developing countries had increased rapidly in the previous few years, and that the total Canadian aid effort, including bilateral assistance, multilateral grants and export credits, had amounted to a total of \$226 million in 1964-65. Over half of this had been in the form of grants and interest-free loans covering a wide range of activities, such as technical, pre-investment and capital aid.

Increasing emphasis, Mr. Martin said, had been placed on the development of human resources, with the result that, last year, a record number of overseas trainees had been brought to Canada and the largest number yet of Canadian teachers and experts had been sent abroad.