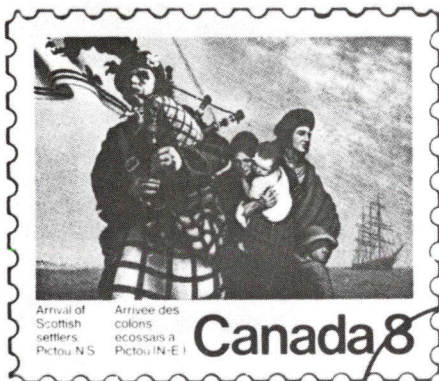


### Scottish pioneers commemorated by postage stamp

The Canada Post Office will issue an 8-cent stamp on July 20 to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Scottish settlers at Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

"The arrival of nearly 200 Highland settlers at Pictou...was the beginning of a wave of Scottish immigration to Canada," said Postmaster General André Ouellet. "Appropriately, the stamp which commemorates this historic event also marks the beginning of a new series of stamps recognizing the contributions of immigrant peoples to the prosperous development and multicultural character of our nation."



A forbidding shoreline greeted the Scots on board the *Hector* the day she cast anchor off the shore of what is now Pictou County. The dense forest grew down to the water's edge as far as the eye could see. The unfamiliar customs and appearance of the Indians inhabiting the area so terrified the settlers that they remained on board for two days despite their desire to walk again on dry land. Finally, on September 17, 1773, dressed in full Scottish regalia with all the pageantry of their kilts and the pipes, they went ashore.

Their voyage provided the impetus for the tide of Scottish immigrants that flowed for more than 50 years, peopling the whole of northeastern Nova Scotia, large parts of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and sections of eastern Ontario. With little else to support them but the raw resources of their land, the immigrants became lumbermen, farmers and fishermen. Out of the success of these endeavours grew important industries and commerce that provided the settlers and their descendents with a prospering economy.

In the past 200 years, the anniversary of the *Hector's* arrival has been celebrated in Pictou. The date, which came to be known as Natal Day, has been the occasion for a public holiday observed by such special events as highland games, parades and harvest thanksgiving.

### The year of the "Hector"

This year's celebrations will mark what has been designated "The Year of the *Hector*". Included in a province-wide festival running throughout the summer of 1973, are such regular annual events as the Pictou Lobster Carnival and the Festival of the Tartans, as well as special, commemorative events of distinctly Scottish themes. Coinciding with a celebration at Pictou, the date of issue for the Scottish settlers stamp will be marked with a formal launching ceremony there, attended by Mr. Ouellet and officials of the *Hector* Bicentennial Committee.

### Food prices review board

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Herb Gray recently announced that Mrs. Beryl A. Plumtre of Ottawa had been named Chairman of the recently-established Food Prices Review Board.

Well known throughout Canada for her energetic role in the country's economic and social life, Mrs. Plumtre will be joined in the five-member Board by Dr. Gordon L. Burton of Claresholm, Alberta, W. Grant Thompson of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mrs. Evelyn A. Root of Vancouver, British Columbia and Louis-H. Lorrain of Baie D'Urfé, Quebec.

Mr. Gray announced the Government's decision to establish a Board to review food costs in April, following a recommendation of the Special House of Commons Committee on Trends in Food Prices. The FPRB will conduct two kinds of examination of food prices: (1) It will prepare a regular quarterly review of trends in food prices; and (2) it will make special inquiries into the causes of particular food price increases.

Mr. Gray emphasized that the Board would be an independent body with wide powers of inquiry. At its own dis-

cretion it will determine such food prices as warrant special investigation and will undertake on its own inquiries into these areas.

On completion of each inquiry the Board will make public a report on the results of its investigation, including any appropriate recommendations.

Members of the Board will be appointed as Commissioners under the Inquiries Act, who will have power to summon witnesses, to require them to give evidence and to produce documents considered necessary to the Board's investigations.

### Gross national product

The Canadian economy continued to expand strongly in the first quarter of 1973. Preliminary estimates indicate a striking acceleration in consumer spending, after exceptional growth in the fourth quarter of 1972, a sharp pick-up in the rate of business inventory investment and continuing acceleration in corporation profits. The strength of the economy was also evident in large employment increases, resulting in a marked fall in the unemployment rate to 5.9 per cent in the first quarter of this year from 6.7 per cent in the fourth quarter. The fast pace of activity was accompanied by increased price pressure, particularly in prices of food and many industrial commodities.

The gross national product at market prices rose by \$4.8 billion, to reach a level of \$112.6 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. This amounted to a 4.4 percent increase. The gain, one of the largest ever recorded, came on the heels of an exceptionally strong 3.6 percent increase in the revised fourth quarter of 1972. The acceleration was, however, entirely due to price increases; the price index rose twice as fast as it did in the previous quarter — 1.5 per cent, compared with 0.7 per cent. In volume terms, GNP showed the same increase of 2.9 per cent as in the revised previous quarter. (Revisions introduced in this report had the effect of raising the growth rate in 1972 to 5.8 per cent from 5.5 per cent.) In the quarterly data the largest revision made to 1972 was in the fourth quarter, which originally showed a 2.6 percent real rate of growth.