

CANADIAN HOUSING IN FRANCE

The Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, and Mr. Robert André Vivien, France's Secretary of State for Housing, presided at the official opening last month of the first project undertaken by a company, financed by Franco-Canadian funds, formed to promote the use in France of Canadian timber-frame construction techniques.⁽¹⁾

Located at Igny in the Bievre Valley, the "Parc des Erables", as it has been called, is about 20 kilometres from Paris.

To mark this event the two ministers, using symbolic silver shovels, planted a maple tree.

Mr. Pepin also had talks in Paris with Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French Minister of Finance, Mr. François Xavier Ortolí, Minister of Development and Scientific Research, and Mr. Jacques Duhamel, Minister of Agriculture.

The Igny housing project is being built by a Franco-Canadian consortium, Dumez-Campeau Limited of Paris. Mr. Pepin said he hoped the joint effort would pave the way for closer economic and trade relations between France and Canada.

"This to me is a typical example of the way in which the Government can effectively assist in creating the favourable climate that will permit private enterprise to launch a new and daring venture, which naturally entails a certain amount of risk," Mr. Pepin said.

OUTLINE OF PROJECT

In 1967, a French mission composed of top-level housing authorities came to Canada on the invitation of the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade

and Commerce. Members of the mission were favourably impressed with the Canadian timber-frame construction techniques and recommended a pilot project of some 100 homes.

These were to be built by a French firm in co-operation with a Canadian one. After further extensive studies, including the visit to France of a special Canadian housing mission in 1968, and as a result of consultations with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Canadian Association of Home Builders, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce opened talks with the French Government and decided to support the project.

As a second step, it was necessary to find a French partner who would show an interest in a joint undertaking of this nature, as well as a Canadian firm which had considerable experience in the construction of private dwellings. This search led to the formation of the Dumez-Campeau Company, joint subsidiaries of the Dumez Company of Paris, and of the Campeau Corporation of Ottawa.

The Igny project will comprise 114 homes, six of which have already been built. One of these, known as the "X-Ray House", was specially designed to enable architects and contractors to examine closely the workings of the Canadian technique used in the construction of timber-frame homes.

This joint undertaking is not the only arrangement of its nature existing between France and Canada. Other agreements have been arrived at during the past few years and they now exist in practically every branch of industry, trade and services.

⁽¹⁾ See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 24, No. 29, July 16, 1969, P. 5.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Canadian delegation at the thirty-second session of the International Conference on Education, held in Geneva from July 1-9, under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education (IBE) was led by Dr. J.C. McIsaac, Minister of Education for Saskatchewan, and included as delegates: Mr. F.T. Atkinson, Deputy Minister of Education for New Brunswick, Miss Thérèse Baron, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education for Quebec, Reverend Father J.H. Conway, Rector of Holy Rosary Scholasticate, Orleans, Ontario, Miss Lorraine Leblanc, Professor at l'Ecole Normale de Moncton, Dr. G.N. Perry, Deputy Minister of Education for British Columbia.

The agenda for this year's conference included a study of the improvement of the effectiveness of educational systems through the reduction of wastage at all levels of education. The delegates considered major trends in educational development, basing their

discussion on recent developments in education within their respective countries.

Canadian participation at the thirty-second session of the International Conference on Education was of particular significance in 1970, the year designated by the United Nations as International Education Year.

PRAIRIE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Winnipeg is the major wholesaling centre for the Prairie Provinces. In 1961, the latest year for which figures are available, the value of wholesale trade in the Prairie metropolis at \$3.0 billion, was the highest in Canada. The figure for Montreal was \$2.4 billion, for Calgary and Edmonton \$0.55 billion each and for Regina and Saskatoon under \$0.25 billion.

The 1961 census listed 1,140 wholesale firms in Greater Winnipeg, and in recent years a number of distributors have expanded or located in the area.