

Science park new link with Britain

A research and development park in Alberta may provide an opportunity for closer industrial, scientific and financial links between Canada and Britain, the British High Commissioner to Canada, Sir John Ford, said in a speech at the recent opening of the park.

The High Commissioner read a message from Cambridge University, England, whose Science Park will establish a link with the new Edmonton Research and Development Park.

Dr. Harry Gunning, former president of the University of Alberta and now chairman of the Edmonton Research and Development Park, said that as Canada's economic balance continued to move westward, "we see dramatic opportunities to serve the needs of high technology as required by a new global-sized petrochemical industry and in the areas of sophisticated electronic and telecommunication installations".

The initial site of 620 acres is expected to be expanded to twice that size at the park's completion, making it the largest research park in Canada. The park will draw upon more than 5,000 University of Alberta science students for research.

In his speech, Sir John said that although, "Britain's record recently in productivity has been bad, its record in innovation has been remarkable. Britain is still in the van in many sectors of technology and British businessmen and administrators still have vast experience in dealing with foreign governments and peoples. Alberta can buy that experience and can attract it here in the form of joint-venture operations".

In 1973, Trinity College in Cambridge set up its own science park to turn inventions into profitable business: one-half of its product is exported outside Britain including lasers, electron optic systems, veterinary vaccines and research metals.

Stanford Research Institute International of Menlo, California, was selected to do initial research for the park on methods of management, land pricing policy, marketing, development controls, physical planning guidelines, methods of financing and size. The first industrial park, the Stanford Industrial Park at Palo Alto, California, was established by Stanford University in 1951. More than 70 firms now occupy the site, providing jobs for some 17,000 people.

Judges' robes make history

For the first time in Canadian history, Supreme Court judges are wearing Canadian-made ceremonial robes.

When the Supreme Court of Canada was created in 1875, robes for the Supreme Court Justices were made in Britain from "Monks cloth" because by tradition the King's laws were administered by local monks prior to the Magna Carta. The original robes, worn by Canadian Supreme Court Justices, were copied from those worn by Royal Court Justices in Britain. The odd robe, which required replacement was made of baize cloth, essentially the type of material used on billiard tables.



Chief Justice Bora Laskin wears new ceremonial robes.

However, because most of the robes needed to be replaced, Chief Justice Bora Laskin approached Supply and Services Canada to enquire about a replacement.

A bright red barathea cloth made by Dominion Woollens, Montreal for the Department of National Defence was chosen for the robes. Although traditionally trimmed with Russian ermine, the Canadian gowns were trimmed with white mink supplied by the Canadian Mink Breeders' Association.

The robes, which were traditionally bought only from a century-old British firm, were made and supplied by Harcourts Limited of Toronto, Ontario under contract to Supply and Services Canada. Harcourts, a 137-year-old firm, makes al-

most 90 per cent of all judicial gowns in Canada.

President David Cooper of Harcourts personally delivered the first robe to Chief Justice Laskin.

The old robes being replaced were used over the years by many different justices, most of whom had their initials inscribed on the robes' facing. It is likely that the old robes will probably be donated to museums across the country.

Increase of immigrants

Canada will increase by 20,000 the number of immigrants it will allow into the country next year, Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey announced in a recent report to Parliament on immigration levels.

The 1980 immigration figure includes some 27,000 Indochinese refugees remaining in the Government's 50,000 commitment for 1979 and 1980 made earlier this year. The increase over the 100,000 level established in 1979 is attributable to the special refugee program whereby the Government sponsors one refugee for every one brought to Canada by private sponsors, explained Mr. Atkey.

"This does not mean that other parts of the immigration program will be cut back. Nor will refugee intake be cut back. We will err on the side of generosity if more than the expected number of Southeast Asian refugees are sponsored in 1980 as a result of the Government's special program," the Minister said.

"Family and independent immigration will not be reduced in 1980, because of the special refugee program and the principle of family reunification will continue to govern the admission of close family members," said Mr. Atkey. "But it will be equally important to increase the proportion of immigrants selected according to the needs of the Canadian labour market."

Immigrants destined to the labour market do not displace Canadian workers, but are chosen to provide job skills when no domestic workers are available. The report points out that the Federal Government is "committed to the principle that it is preferable, wherever possible, to employ or train Canadians for Canadian jobs, rather than to admit workers from abroad". The report also outlines federal programs for job replacement, mobility and training to boost job opportunities for Canadian workers.