

News briefs

Deputy Premier Robert Welch of Ontario and representatives of nine companies were in Thailand and Singapore this September exploring sales, technology-transfer and joint-venture opportunities. As leader of the mission, Mr. Welch held talks with political and business leaders in Thailand including the prime minister, deputy minister for foreign affairs, and the secretary-general of the Board of Investment. In Singapore, he met with the minister of state for trade and development, the chairman of the Economic Development Board, and the chairman of the telecommunications authority.

Canada's cod quota on the Grand Bank off Newfoundland has been increased from 11 650 tonnes to 15 955 tonnes for 1985, representing almost one-half of the total allowable catch. The Grand Bank is expected to produce 70 000 to 100 000 tonnes a year in the near future. The current quota is 33 000 tonnes. The Grand Bank is considered an ideal fishing area because there is no ice, no problems with worms in the cod, and it is close to trawler ports. About 100 Canadian vessels, mostly from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, fish the Grand Bank each season.

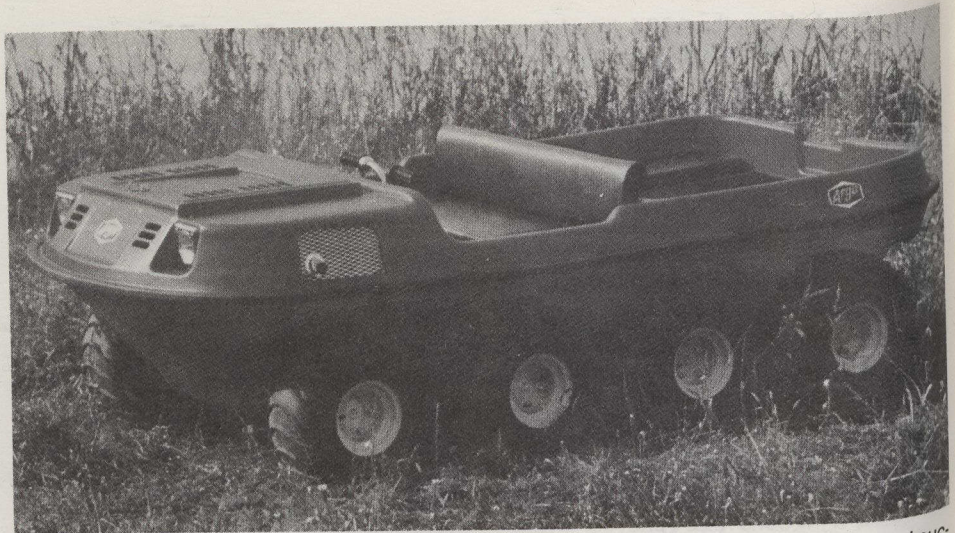
Rev. Robert Smith has been elected the new moderator of the United Church of Canada. The United Church is the country's largest Protestant denomination with just under 800 000 active members in more than 4 000 congregations in Canada and Bermuda (Bermuda is part of the church's Maritime conference). Mr. Smith, 50, minister of Shaughnessy Heights United Church in Vancouver, succeeds the Right Rev. Clarke MacDonald.

Canada Post has signed a bilateral agreement with the US Postal Service to expand the mail market between the two countries. Under the terms of the new pact, each postal administration agreed to give trans-border mail the same priority as domestic mail.

Pierre Viau, the warden of Archambault maximum-security prison near Montreal, has been named warden of the year by the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents. Commissioner Don Yeomans of the Correctional Service of Canada said Mr. Viau received the award during the annual meeting of the American Correctional Association in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Viau, 40, is the first Canadian to win the award. He was appointed warden of Archambault in 1983.

A Canadian process for making fuel from the waste products of sugar production will be used in a \$4-million demonstration plant

All-terrain vehicles



Ontario Drive and Gear Limited of New Hamburg, Ontario, has been manufacturing and successfully marketing the Argo line of six- and eight-wheel off-road, amphibious vehicles since 1967. With the introduction of its newly-designed Argo 8 version, the company believes it has the most comprehensive line of small, multi-wheeled vehicles produced in North America. The newest model eight-wheel unit is aimed at the growing industrial/commercial market for a lightweight, low ground pressure vehicle with amphibious capabilities. It is economical yet durable enough to withstand the punishment of work-day operations.

in Brazil. The process was developed by Professor Laszlo Paszner of the University of British Columbia's forestry department. Bagasse, the woody waste remaining after sugar juice is extracted from cane, is cooked in a solvent at a high pressure in the process. In less than five minutes, the wood is dissolved. After the solvent is extracted for reuse, the sugars are precipitated out and processed into ethanol. In production, a plant using the process could convert 300 tonnes of bagasse a day and make 50 million litres of ethanol a year.

Employment Minister Flora MacDonald has announced that the government will inject an "immediate" \$430 million into winter job creation. She said that \$250 million would be allocated through the Canada Works program at the constituency level. It is expected to create 47 000 jobs beginning January 1 and continuing into the 1985-86 fiscal year. Another \$180 million allocated from an increase of \$100 million in the expenditure ceiling for job creation under the Unemployment Insurance Act and provision of \$80 million in related federal funds will create an additional 21 000 jobs, Ms. MacDonald said.

Four Chinese justice officials, including the deputy director of the Reform Through Labour Bureau, are in Canada to study how crime is dealt with here. Justice Minister John Crosbie said the visit is "an important first step in the development of an exchange of information on the law and the legal

system between Canada and the People's Republic of China". In Ottawa the four will visit a criminal court, meet a judge, tour the Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters, meet law professors at the University of Ottawa, and talk with lawyers, parole officials and those who keep crime statistics.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) recently announced the signing of a \$10-million (US) line of credit agreement with Bangkok Bank Limited of Bangkok, Thailand, to support sales of Canadian capital goods and services to Thailand. The line of credit will assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Thailand by providing their buyers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the bank. It is expected that the main application of the line of credit will be to support contracts for small- and medium-sized export sales.

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