

Research helps (Continued from P. 2)

form of learning disability) have not always been adequately served by the conventional school system, largely because of cost and lack of facilities or staff.

In a long-range program of research, development and evaluation in the field of computer-aided learning systems, the Council has collaborated with teachers and educators at all levels in an attempt to get insight into the range and nature of the problems that might be tackled using available technology. As part of the program, a terminal and related software have been developed which permit computer-controlled testing of learning abilities. This development has been carried out in collaboration with Carleton University, the Rideau Regional Hospital School and the Eastern Ontario Children's Hospital.

Results of initial tests conducted by these institutions have been very encouraging and the development of a prototype portable terminal based on this work is currently being undertaken by Lektromedia Ltd. of Pointe-Claire, Quebec. The terminal is packaged in units which can be carried as airline luggage and incorporates slide presentation, random access audio messages and a touch-sensitive input device permitting the tests to be administered without requiring the subject to possess any special skills to operate the terminal. The terminal also incorporates a unit to provide a printed record of the test results.

"Throughout the years," said program manager Orest Roy, "the prime objective of our efforts has been the application of science and technology to individual needs for self-sufficiency. During [the] International Year of the Child, we [felt] that exceptional children should have their fair share of attention and the assistance they need to become productive members of our society."

(From Science Dimension 1979/5.)

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

News briefs

The federal and Ontario governments have signed an agreement for a pilot project to train Ontario workers in highly skilled metal machining trades in order to provide skilled manpower necessary for the expansion of Canada's machinery manufacturing industry. Ontario has severe shortages in such trades and the project is part of the Federal Government's Critical Trades Skill Training and the Ontario government's Employer Sponsored Training initiatives to encourage employers and unions to train workers in skills which have been persistently in short supply.

The papers of the late Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King for the year 1949 were opened to the public by the Public Archives of Canada at the beginning of the new year. The diaries for 1949, contained in almost 700 pages, describe in detail the public and private life of Mackenzie King. This year, for the first time since 1938, most of the diaries are handwritten, although typed transcripts for the entire year also exist. The year 1949 marks the end of Mackenzie King's more than 40 years of public service as politician and civil servant. While the 1949 diaries are mainly concerned with his private life, they also describe King's new role as "elder statesman" in meetings with Prime Minister St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester Pearson, Prime Minister Nehru of India, and British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

The University of British Columbia has set a budget of more than \$3.5 million to complete its Asian Centre in time for occupancy in 1981. The Centre will house an Asian Studies Library of more than 200,000 books, as well as offices for members of the Department of Asian Studies and the Institute of Asian Research. There will also be a 250-seat auditorium for the performance of Asian music, theatre and dance, and an exhibition area.

The Federal Government will continue to give financial support to northern co-operatives for the third year of a five-year self-development program. Economic development contributions totaling \$1,750,000 and bank loan guarantees of over \$6 million have been authorized for 50 co-operatives and their two federations: Canadian Arctic Co-operative

Federation Ltd., for native co-ops in the Northwest Territories, and La Fédération des Co-opératives du Nouveau-Québec. The money is being used to develop native management skills, implement a system of financial planning, inventory control and accounting procedures, and provide sufficient working capital.

Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan and Halifax Industries Ltd. have signed an agreement for a \$6-million loan to the company for modernization at the shipyard in Halifax. The loan will be used to modernize the company's steel fabricating facilities.

Westcoast Transmission Company Ltd. plans to build a \$260-million gas pipeline from Williams Lake to Powell River on the British Columbia coast. The pipeline is expected to be in operation in 1983. Market studies have indicated that the gas requirement would increase from 22.4 billion cubic feet a year in 1983 to 44.3 billion cubic feet in 1997.

After-tax profits of Canadian corporations in the third quarter last year totalled \$1.65 billion, a gain of 57.2 per cent from \$1.05 billion in the 1978 third quarter, according to a survey of 136 companies. The strongest sectors were textile, chemicals, mines and oil and gas, while the weakest were trust and finance companies, utilities and communications. Six firms in the textiles and chemicals group showed profits of \$56.2 million, a jump of 267.3 per cent from 1978. Sixteen oil and gas companies had profits of \$461.2 million, a rise of 63.1 per cent from 1978.

The Bank of Nova Scotia in co-operation with Sun Hung Kai Securities Ltd. of Hong Kong has been appointed sole Canadian distributor of a new set of gold coins commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the People's Republic of China. The coins have a face value of 400 Chinese yuan or about \$312 (U.S.).

Michelle Sherren became sought after by British horse owners recently after becoming the first Canadian girl jockey to win a race in Britain. Trainer Ian Wardle is joint owner with Englishman David Milburn of *Sandra Bella*, a four-year-old filly that won a hurdle race with Michelle in the saddle. *Sandra Bella* finished five lengths ahead of *Richmede*. Michelle, from Hamilton, Ontario, took a riding job with the Wardle Stable while on a visit to Britain. Six horse owners have now expressed interest in getting Michelle to ride for them.