

Sarnia-Montreal pipeline open

The National Energy Board has granted leave to operate the new 520-mile extension of the interprovincial oil pipeline system from Sarnia, Ontario to Montreal, Quebec. First deliveries of western Canadian oil to Montreal refineries took place in the last weeks of June.

Montreal refineries were dependent on imported crude oil prior to the extension of the pipeline system, which transports oil from Alberta to central Canada and the United States. The flow of western oil into Montreal will increase gradually from an estimated 120,000 barrels a day in July to 250,000 barrels a day by the end of the year.

Oil exports from Canada to the United States are limited to 450,000 barrels a day in July as a result of the increase in Canadian requirements for western oil, now that the Montreal market is linked to the interprovincial pipeline system.

In comparison, exports of oil since January of this year have averaged about 505,000 barrels a day, just below the ceiling of 510,000 barrels established by the Board for the first six months of 1976.

Decline in exports

A report published by the National Energy Board in September 1975 outlined the principle whereby the level of exports of crude oil and equivalent would decline each month in 1976 in proportion to the deliveries of Canadian oil to Montreal refineries. The Board continues to collaborate with United States officials in efforts to minimize the impact on U.S. consumers of the scheduled reduction of crude oil exports from Canada.

Exports of crude oil are expected to average about 420,000 barrels a day

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during the last six months of 1976. During the same period, imports of crude oil to supply refineries in eastern Canada will average about 675,000 barrels a day.

The minimum prices for exports of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons in July will remain unchanged from the existing levels. The prevailing tariff of export charges on these oils will also remain unchanged for July but the Board will support applications for the reduction of charges in respect of oil exported in the month that enters exporting pipeline systems on or after July 1, when domestic crude oil prices were due to increase.

News briefs

- At press time, a full International Olympic Committee was considering its executive committee's recommendation to reluctantly agree with the Canadian Government's stipulation that Taiwan athletes could compete in the Games but not as representatives of the People's Republic of China (see News Briefs in last issue). The executive committee said it had no alternative, short of cancelling the Games. Canada, which has not had diplomatic relations with Taiwan since 1971, still contends the IOC was aware of its position a year ago.
- A motion that would have retained the death penalty for murderers of police and prison employees was defeated by 132 to 117 in the House of Commons, June 8. The vote was one of five taken on amendments to Bill C-84, which narrowly passed second reading on June 22 (see *Canada Weekly* dated July 7, 1976). The final vote was expected to take place on July 14 or 15.
- A gallon of gasoline and home-heating oil will increase half a cent more than was expected owing to a change on July 1, in the wellhead price for crude oil. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources had announced in May an increase for the price of crude oil to \$1.05 a barrel — an increase of 3.8 cents to consumers — but oil companies received notice on July 8 that they could increase prices up to 4.3 cents when a freeze on consumer prices ends on August 30.
- A six-man delegation represented

Banking by television

Television banking will be introduced at the new Ontario regional headquarters of the Royal Bank of Canada in Toronto on September 29. Each station will have a teller-call button, a closed-circuit TV monitor on which the teller can be seen, a microphone for the customer to speak to the teller and a closed-circuit camera that will transmit the customer's image to the teller. A capsule travelling through a pneumatic tube will take the customer's withdrawal slip or other transaction to the teller, who will return the cash.

Canada at the seventh session of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports from French-speaking States in Paris, July 8-13. The chairman was Paul Phaneuf, Quebec Minister responsible for the Office of the High Commissioner for Youth, Recreation and Sports.

- Federal and provincial finance ministers ended a planned two-day conference after the first day on July 6 after disagreement over Ontario's proposal to take over complete responsibility for health and education programs in return for more tax-raising power. The proposal was rejected by the Federal Government, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Federal Finance Minister Donald Macdonald said they would meet again in the autumn and discussions should finish in November.

- Capital spending by all sectors of the Canadian economy is expected to reach \$41,954 million this year, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the level of \$37,997 million in 1975. Intended capital expenditures on new construction in 1976 are estimated at \$26,810 million, an increase of 12.2 per cent, while acquisition of new machinery and equipment is expected to amount to \$15,144 million, an increase of 7.4 per cent.

- Bell Canada now has more than eight million telephones in service. It took 65 years to reach the first million in 1945, company chairman A.J. Grandpré said, but now a million telephones are added every three years or less, with indications that demand will continue to increase.