

### Favourable outlook for exports

The outlook for Canadian exports in 1976 is "quite favourable" as the world economy continues to recover from the most serious recession of the postwar period, according to the Bank of Montreal *Business Review*, March edition.

The Bank forecasts that real gross national product in Canada's main export markets will grow by almost 6 per cent this year. Because of Canada's deliberate 30 percent cutback in crude oil exports, however, the volume of Canadian exports may only grow by 4 per cent.

But, the *Review* says, "even that is a welcome change after the 8 percent fall in 1975". The trade sector was the weakest element in the economy last year, producing the first merchandise-trade deficit in 15 years. This year, Canadian exports in dollar value are forecast to grow by 13 per cent, a significant turnaround after the marginal 2 percent growth last year. The *Review* predicts that all major export categories apart from oil will grow in two-digit figures, with especially strong growth in the automotive, lumber and natural gas areas.

The Bank bases its forecasts on a "much brighter" outlook for the world economy after a recession that had a severe impact on international trade. The actual volume of world trade declined by 3.5 per cent last year. The *Review* says that the volume may increase by a healthy 7.5 per cent this year.

### U.S. and Canada lead recovery

The recovery is being led by the United States and Canada, both of which are expected to experience real growth of around 6 per cent in 1976. Japan is expected to grow by 4 per cent to 5 per cent, with somewhat slower growth in Germany and France and only 1 percent growth in Britain.

"Nevertheless," the *Review* comments, "mainly because of the upswing in North America, the world economy will grow by almost 5 per cent." The recovery is prompted mainly by consumer demand for durable goods, whereas private business investment is still depressed. The *Review* comments, however, that "it may well be



Marshall Wood's statue of Queen Victoria in the Library of Parliament.

### Parliamentary Library celebrates its centennial

The Library of Parliament, which is part of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is celebrating its hundredth birthday this year.

After it was damaged by fire in 1952, every feature of the Library was preserved in its original form and new furniture was carefully copied from the surviving pieces.

The circular room, under a 174-foot ceiling, is panelled in hand-carved white pine rising from a parquet of cherry, oak and walnut. Below the reading-room are two levels of modern stacks surrounded by offices.

The Library has half a million books, some of them, like the \$27,000 folio of

Audubon, extremely rare. Holdings include British statutes dating back to Magna Carta, British debates from 1660, American Congressional papers from 1802 and Canadian records from the earliest days.

The collection, which serves primarily Members of Parliament and Senators, was for more than half a century a major research centre and national library until the National Library of Canada came into being in 1953.

In honour of the centennial, the National Library is holding a special exhibition, which includes books written by members of both Houses of Parliament.

that next year, when the present upswing in demand for consumer durables starts losing its momentum, the revival of private fixed investment will provide a new impetus to the recovery, ensuring its continuation through 1977".

In the meantime, it says, the recovery "is still a fragile one". Unemployment will remain high in the major industrialized countries. Inflation is still a serious world-wide problem, although

some further easing is expected. Overall world consumer prices are expected to rise by somewhat in excess of 9 per cent after a 10.6 percent advance in 1975.

In a section dealing with Canada, the *Review* states that "the economy got off to a fast start in 1976", with housing and employment up sharply. Further, recent statistics on late 1975 performance indicate strong growth in industrial production