

News briefs

Full agreement has been reached between Canada and the United States for the sub-lease back to Canada of part of the U.S. Naval Base at Argentia, Newfoundland, for industrial and commercial development. The Federal Government will then transfer administration and control of most of the area to the government of Newfoundland.

Bryce MacKasey officially resigned his seat in the Quebec National Assembly April 25. The former federal Cabinet Minister, who left Ottawa to run in the Quebec provincial election for the Liberals, says he has no immediate political plans.

Labour Minister John Munro has announced the formation of a study group to examine the possibility of converting the Post Office to a Crown corporation, a long-standing demand of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, which currently is in conciliation hearings with the Post Office in an attempt to resolve a lengthy contract dispute. The study group is to report in July.

Preliminary figures put Canada's population at 23,444,200 as of January 1978. That's up 264,000 in the year, with Ontario accounting for 42 per cent of the increase. Alberta had the biggest percentage gain.

Brigadier Henry Pybus Bell-Irving succeeds Walter Stewart Owen as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Brigadier Bell-Irving is Vice President of the Boy Scouts of Canada, a former commanding officer of the British Columbia Corps of Commissionaires, and Past President of the Vancouver Board of Trade. He is at present Chairman of the Board, A.E. Lepage Western Ltd. Former Commander

of the Seaforth Highlanders during the Italian Campaign in the Second World War, and the tenth Canadian Infantry Brigade in Northwest Europe, he holds the Distinguished Service Order and Bar.

Senator Jean-Pierre Côté, former Postmaster General and Minister of National Revenue, has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, succeeding Hughes Lapointe, who retired. Before entering politics in 1963, Mr. Côté was involved with the Boy Scout movement and his local school board.

Claude Wagner, M.P., Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, has been summoned to the Senate. Mr. Wagner, a member of the Quebec Assembly from 1964 to 1970, was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972, and more recently, contended unsuccessfully for the leadership of the federal Progressive Conservative party, losing to Joe Clark.

Agriculture Canada will establish an experimental farm in Kent County, in eastern New Brunswick. Scientific and technical staff at the farm, which will be a sub-station to the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Fredericton, New Brunswick, will concentrate their efforts on the solution of local production problems as well as developing and demonstrating new technology.

Air Canada made a profit in 1977 for the first time in four years. In its annual report to the Commons on April 17, the Crown corporation stated it had its best financial year ever, with a profit of \$41.9 million before taxes. Total revenue was \$1,187,666,000, an increase of 12 per cent over that of 1976.

Whale-watching has become a popular pastime at British Columbia's Pacific Rim National Park, a five-hour trip from Vancouver. Some 11,000 grey whales pass Canada's west coast each year during their 20,000-kilometre migration from the breeding lagoons of Baja, California, U.S., to the Arctic and back. The whales start passing the park early in January and, by late March or early April, the migration reaches its peak. They travel north in pods of two to 30, travelling about 30 kilometres an hour.

Angela Havey, an Ontario resident who became interested in flying after taking a helicopter ride, recently obtained her pilot's licence, becoming, at 17, the youngest pilot in Canada.

Twelve foreign military officers arrived in Canada April 17 for nine months' training with the Canadian Armed Forces. The

officers, from Bangladesh, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Trinidad/Tobago and Zambia, are training at Canadian Forces Staff School in Toronto and Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario, under an agreement with the countries concerned.

Ottawa's seven-month-old tabloid, *Ottawa Today*, ceased publication on April 21. The morning newspaper went into receivership mid-April after experiencing a series of financial upsets.

Four export orders worth from \$111,000 to \$80 million have been won by Canadian companies with the backing of a new surety-insurance program introduced last autumn by the Export Development Corporation. The smallest of the orders involves the sale to Iran of \$111,000-worth of aircraft-refueling hydrants by EGW Montreal Ltd. This firm, which employs about 100 people, manufactures truck-mounted gas and oil tanks and equipment. Its success is largely dependent on its export sales, which account for about 30 per cent of its production.

Canadian sales of refined oil products totalled 55,132,000 barrels in February, up 2.6 per cent from 53,719,000 in February 1977, Statistics Canada says. Of total sales, gasoline accounted for 17,027,000 barrels, up 6.5 per cent from 15,993,000 a year earlier.

Companies which prepare tax returns and receive payment by a percentage of the refund will be closely regulated by a bill passed hurriedly through the Commons. Some of the firms pay taxpayers as little as half of their expected refunds, then submit the returns and collect the refund themselves. The new legislation, expected to gain rapid Senate approval, will restrict the profit to 15 per cent.

The Liberal Government of Prince Edward Island was re-elected April 24, with a reduced majority. The Liberals won 17 seats and the Conservatives took 15, although the results were subject to a re-count in several ridings. Premier Alexander Campbell, 44, is the only person to have won election as premier four times.

For a mere \$8,000 a Toronto woman has secured a collector's item that nearly fell into the hands of an eager American buyer — a \$5-Canadian stamp issued in 1897 for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

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