

News briefs

Governor-General Edward Schreyer was recently proclaimed Honorary Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard in a ceremony at Government House. Mr. Schreyer is the second Governor General to become Honorary Chief Commissioner of the Coast Guard. The first was Jules Léger.

The Quebec Liberal Party has set up a pre-referendum committee to handle organization and other work until the official referendum campaign begins next spring. Guy St. Pierre, chairman of the new group, said there were more than 20 provincial Liberals on the committee. Mr. St. Pierre says he expects the group eventually will form "the backbone" of the official umbrella committee of federalist forces in the province.

Unemployment insurance payments for the first nine months of the year were \$3.2 billion, down 10 per cent from those of a year earlier, Statistics Canada figures indicate. Most of the decline was caused by a drop of 9 per cent in the number of weeks of benefit paid.

Members of the Quebec Union Nationale have given party leader Rodrigue Biron a mandate to help found a new provincial party together with Quebec Conservatives and other right-wingers. The 800 UN members attending a special one-day convention recently voted 90 per cent in favour of a resolution that calls for founding of the new party at a special convention to be held in mid-1980.

Saskatchewan's New Democratic Party government is raising the minimum wage to \$3.65 an hour, May 1. It was increased to \$3.50, October 1.

Embraer, Brazil's largest aircraft manufacturer, has announced a \$27-million contract awarded to Pratt and Whitney of Canada for its ADS-604 engine. The new turbo-prop model engine will be used in

Embraer's EMB-120 aircraft, a new, 30-passenger, short-take-off and landing plane.

The Export Development Corporation, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of America recently concluded financing arrangements to support the sale of a U.S. \$26-million offshore jack-up drilling rig by Davie Shipbuilding of Lauzon, Quebec. The sale to Global Marine Drilling Co. of Los Angeles will generate 1,000 man-years of employment in Canada, 700 at Davie and 300 at 30 sub-suppliers. It was the second sale of an offshore jack-up drilling rig by Davie to GMDC financed by the same lenders.

The Royal Canadian Mint is now minting thinner and lighter pennies. The new coins were reduced to 2.8 grams January 1, from 3.24 grams and were reduced in thickness to 1.38 millimetres from 1.65. The current coins cost more than one cent each to produce, and the cost of a run of 600 to 700 million of them will save about \$500,000. The new coins will continue to be made of an alloy that is 98 per cent copper.

The number of foreign visitors to Canada increased during October from those of a year earlier and the number of Canadians returning from foreign countries went down, according to Statistics Canada. Preliminary statistics show that 2.2 million U.S. residents entered Canada in October, up 4.3 per cent from the October 1978 figure. Canadians coming home from visits to the United States numbered 2.8 million, down 1.8 per cent. Visitors from countries other than United States rose 14.6 per cent to 138,000, while the number of Canadians returning from these countries fell 4.1 per cent to 115,000.

The Federal Government will continue to pay a bonus to bilingual public servants. The Cabinet has agreed that the \$800-a-year bonus will be extended probably until 1983. About 47,000 workers currently receive the bonus, which costs Ottawa \$38 million annually.

Dominion Textile Inc. is planning to spend more than \$30 million on its Canadian plants this fiscal year and \$24 million over three years for a major expansion of its denim manufacturing plant in the United States. Domtex, Canada's largest textile manufacturer, is spending this money to take advantage of new technology. With sales last year of \$667 million, Domtex must seek opportunities outside of the Canadian market, espe-

cially since Canadian-U.S. trade is expected to be liberalized in the future.

Gerald K. Bouey and R. William Lawson have been reappointed as Governor and Senior Deputy Governor respectively of the Bank of Canada. Mr. Bouey's reappointment is effective February 1, and Mr. Lawson's March 1, 1980. Under the Bank of Canada Act, the appointments are for seven years. Mr. Bouey has been Governor since February 1973, and Mr. Lawson has been Senior Deputy Governor since March 1973.

The Royal Canadian Mint will strike a silver dollar and a \$100 gold coin to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary in 1980 of England's granting Canada sovereignty over a large part of the Arctic.

Shell Canada plans to spend \$52 million on expansion of its Shelburn refinery in Burnaby, British Columbia, scheduled for completion in 1983. Construction will create 90 jobs initially, rising to 170 in 1982.

Susan Nattrass of Edmonton, Alberta, won her fifth consecutive women's world trapshooting championship recently in Montecatini, Italy. Nattrass broke 49 of 50 clay pigeons on the final day of the championships, giving her a score of 189 to finish four targets better than runner-up Ulia Klekova of the Soviet Union.

The House of Commons voted recently to make the Parliament Buildings more accessible to the handicapped. The vote came after a member of Parliament complained about the difficulties he had after inviting a group of British Columbians in wheelchairs to visit the Commons. The guests could not be admitted through the main doors of the Parliament Buildings because of the stairs and had to enter through a side door.

It was a "black-tie" affair December 15, when the Winnipeg Jets met the defending Stanley Cup Champion Montreal Canadiens in a National Hockey League game. It was the first time the Canadiens had played the Jets in Winnipeg. The 50 Winnipeg employees wore tuxedos for the occasion and spectators were also encouraged to dress formally for the game, which was televised by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "Everybody thinks of Winnipeg as a hick town and we want to provide the image that Winnipeg people have class," said city councillor Jim Ernst. The Jets displayed some class on the ice by beating the Canadiens by a score of 6-2.

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