

ture," said Mr. Macdonald, "is to attract and retain the high calibre of men and women required in the armed forces."

He went on to say that "the Government has recognized that certain pay disparities have existed over the years between the forces and the public service", adding that "because servicemen and public servants serve the same employer, compensation for the two should be related".

The October 1 effective date applies to most officers and men, including members of the Reserve force. Exceptions are generals and medical, dental and legal officers. Their rates of pay are adjusted at different times of the year, coinciding with their counterparts in the public service.

The Government's recent White Paper on defence indicated that greater attempts would be made to facilitate exchanges of personnel between the military and the public service. The new pay structure will result in comparability in the compensation packages of both work forces.

### EIGHT-CENT STAMP ISSUE

The Canada Post Office will issue a new 8-cent regular definitive stamp for sale on December 30 in time for the new first-class letter rate of 8 cents on January 1.

The slate-coloured stamp, 24 mm by 20 mm, designed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited, bears a portrait of the Queen in the right foreground, with a view of the House of Commons Parliamentary Library in the background.



The format is a continuation of the definitive series begun in 1967, with the Sovereign's portrait on the right and a background view of scenes and subjects distinctive to Canada. The designs for the first five denominations in this series depict the major economic regions of Canada. The designs for the 6- and 7-cent issues depict communications and transportation.

The view of the Parliamentary Library is used on the new issue in recognition of International Book Year, proclaimed for 1972 by the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and serves as a symbol of Canada's participation.

### PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

The Library of Parliament was established in 1971 by an act of Parliament. It was formed initially by the amalgamation of the legislative libraries of Upper and Lower Canada after the two provinces united to become the Province of Canada in 1841.

The Library building is a separate structure to the rear of the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings. The original building was completed in 1876. When the Centre Block was destroyed by fire on February 3, 1916, heavy iron doors in the corridor connecting the two buildings saved the Library. In 1952, however, the Library was the victim of the same enemy, and much of it had to be rebuilt. The original interior woodwork was carefully preserved, but fireproof and fire-resistant materials were used as much as possible in the reconstruction. The Library was reopened in 1956.

The Parliamentary Library supplies the Senate and the House of Commons with both reference and research material. It houses some 300,000 volumes and receives all 103 Canadian daily newspapers, almost all the Canadian weeklies, 1,800 periodicals and all federal and provincial publications, as well as the publications of international organizations such as the United Nations.

### MARRIAGES IN QUEBEC

A statistical analysis of marriages between 1965 and 1968 recently published by the Quebec Bureau of Statistics indicates that the median age, i.e. the average of the majority of cases, is continuing to decrease. For men, the median fell from 25.1 years in 1951 to 23.9 years in 1968, and for women, from 22.6 years in 1951 to 21.9 years in 1968.

These average ages, however, are not distributed uniformly throughout the province, the highest being in the Quebec City area, the lowest in New Quebec.

More than 90 per cent of the marriages involve persons marrying for the first time; next come widows and widowers, and only a small proportion represents divorced persons. However, the number of marriages involving widows or widowers is decreasing, while that of divorced persons is increasing.

In the 46,004 marriages registered in Quebec in 1968, 26,951 of the wives are between 20 and 24, and 5,933 between 25 and 29. Of the husbands, 13,822 were between 20 and 24 years of age, 6,178 between 25 and 29, 194 between 60 and 64, 96 between 70 and 74, and 19 over 80 years of age. The publication on marriages in Quebec provides a host of detail on the civil status of married persons, their religion, place of birth, etc. For most of the people, the place of birth and of marriage are the same. In nearly 80 per cent of the cases the marriage partners were born in Quebec. This proportion has remained fairly constant between 1965 and 1968.