

GENERAL ELECTION IN JUNE

In a statement to the House of Commons on April 23, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau dissolved the twenty-seventh Parliament and announced that a federal general election would be held in Canada on June 25.

The Canadian constitution requires the election of a new House of Commons, consisting of 265 members, at least once every five years. The last general election was held in November 1965.

Mr. Trudeau, speaking at a news conference following the election announcement, said that one of the most important responsibilities of a Prime Minister was "to decide when to seek a mandate from the people". After considering the alternatives, he said he had decided that "the voters should be consulted before the Government brings a programme of new legislation before Parliament". Prime Minister Trudeau was elected Leader of the Liberal Party on April 6 after the resignation of Prime Minister Pearson; he had taken over from Mr. Pearson three days before the announcement of the election.

The need to reform Parliament and the public administration, a revision of relations between federal and provincial governments, linguistic and human rights, regional economic disparity and a

review of foreign policy were areas referred to by Mr. Trudeau as requiring "new direction".

THE ELECTORATE

Subject to a few exceptions, only Canadian citizens or other British subjects may vote and every Canadian citizen over the age of 21 may vote. Each elector must cast his ballot in the constituency in which he resides and at his proper polling-station. Citizenship extends automatically to persons born in Canada or born abroad of Canadian parents. Other persons born abroad may acquire citizenship by naturalization after five years of Canadian residence.

Exceptions to these rules affect relatively few people. A member of the armed forces may vote even if under the age of 21 and may have his vote recorded in his home constituency even if absent on military duty.

British subjects who have lived in Canada for a year and are not Canadian citizens may vote. Indians living on reserves and enjoying, under ancient treaties, exemption from such obligations of citizenship as payment of income tax, may vote; those living off reserves are also entitled to vote.

CANADIAN ART AT EDINBURGH

Contemporary Canadian art will be exhibited at the twenty-second Edinburgh International Festival, Scotland, from August 18 to September 7. The exhibit, *Canada 101 - The Second Edinburgh Hundred*, which will be shown at the Edinburgh College of Art, will be sponsored by the Canada Council.

In making the announcement, Mr. David Silcox, visual arts officer of the Canada Council, stated: We are delighted that Canadian artists have been honoured by this invitation from the Edinburgh Festival Society to participate in the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh International Festival. We also wish to thank Mr. Richard Demarco, of the Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh, who was responsible for the selection of the artists to be represented, and who suggested the concept of the exhibition. *Canada 101* will give his view of the most vital Canadian painting in Canada's 101st year."

EXHIBITORS

The artists will include: Iain Baxter, Claude Breeze, Brian Fisher, Gary Lee-Nova, Michael Morris and Bodo Pfeiffer of Vancouver; Reginald Holmes of Vancouver and New York; Jack Bush, John Meredith and Harold Town of Toronto; Les Levine, Michael Snow and Joyce Wieland of New York and Toronto; Marcel Barbeau, Charles Gagnon, Yves Gaucher, Roy Kiyooka, Guido Molinari and Claude Tousignant

of Montreal; Greg Curnoe of London, Ontario; and Ken Lochhead of Winnipeg.

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL TO CHILE

Nova Scotia's Sydney Steel Corporation has been awarded a contract worth \$3 million by the Chilean State Railways. This is the first major transaction the Sydney Steel Corporation has obtained in South America. The firm has applied for support through the export credit facilities of the Canadian Government.

The contract calls for 20,000 tons of steel rails and tie-plates to be used on the line connecting the port of Arica, in Northern Chile, with La Paz in Bolivia. This contract is part of a continuing rail improvement programme being undertaken by the Chilean State Railways. It could lead to further substantial orders from Chile.

The Sydney Steel Corporation was formed recently to acquire the Cape Breton foundry owned by the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation.

AIR TRAFFIC INCREASES

Air traffic at 39 major Canadian civil airports increased by 21.7 per cent during 1967, over traffic reported by 33 airports in 1966.