

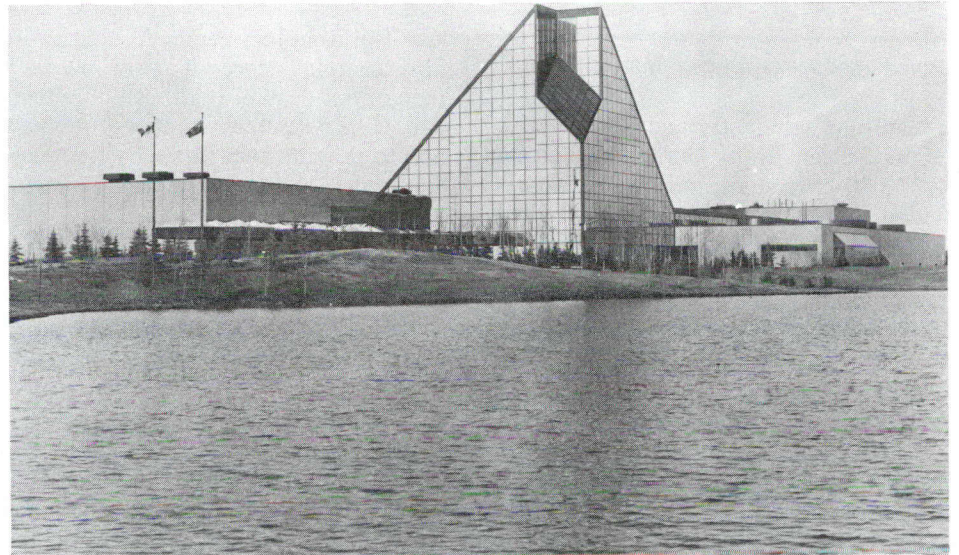
The tower's second floor features a 50-seat theatre, where visitors can see a ten-minute film on mint production. From the theatre, guides lead the visitors along the glassed-in viewing galleries, where they can see the complete minting process.

The third and fourth levels of the tower are occupied by administration offices that overlook the inner courtyard.

Future needs capacity

The new mint has been designed with sufficient capacity to satisfy Canada's need for domestic circulating coinage for many years. It is capable of producing 700 million coins a year on a one shift a day, five-day week operation. When demand exceeds this 700-million piece capacity, a second and third shift will be added so that an effective capacity of 2.1 billion coins a year is possible.

The present equipment is capable of producing one, five, ten, 25- and 50-cent pieces, as well as the nickel dollar. All these coins are available



The new Winnipeg Mint (above) and the Ottawa and Hull Mints should

meet all Canada's minting requirements far into the future.

for general circulation.

The Ottawa Mint produces some domestic coinage as well as circulating coinage for foreign countries. In addition, Ottawa activities include melting, rolling and refining of gold, as

well as the production of medals, medallions and tokens for various companies, government agencies, etc.

The Hull Mint produces numismatic coins, which are sold throughout the world.

History of the Royal Canadian Mint

One of the most popular types of early Canadian "money" was the beaver pelt, but as the population grew, new areas were opened, business expanded accordingly, and a mixture of coins were used for transactions: English, French, Spanish, American and coins of other nations. This was not satisfactory and, in 1858, the first Canadian coinage was authorized and executed. The dollar and cent denominations, similar to the American monetary system, were adopted. All Canadian coinage, from 1858 to 1907, was struck at the Royal Mint, London, or, under its supervision, by a private concern in Birmingham, England.

In the closing years of the nineteenth century, the idea of establishing a mint in Canada was formulated, one of the main reasons being that, at that time, gold production in British Columbia and the Yukon reached unprecedented levels and was being exported to the United States. Promoters of the plan to establish a mint believed that this would stabilize the price of gold. Also, governmental and banking re-

serves had always been held in gold coins of another country, or in bullion, and it was maintained that a policy of keeping reserves in domestic coinage should be inaugurated.

The subject of Canada having its own mint was taken up with the British Government by W.S. Fielding, then Minister of Finance for the Dominion. Canada had never possessed its own gold currency and authorities felt that Canadian gold coins would not be circulated to any extent outside the Dominion and that even locally the demand would be limited. It would, therefore, be advantageous to the Dominion to be able to strike a universally-accepted coin, such as the sovereign. Since this could only be done by the Royal Mint or a branch of the Royal Mint, it was agreed that a branch would be established in Ottawa. On May 2, 1901, Mr. Fielding gave notice to the House of Commons of a resolution for the provision of \$75,000 as an annuity for the maintenance of a branch of the Royal Mint in Canada. Founded on this resolution, the Ottawa Mint Act was passed and received Royal Assent on May 23, 1901.

In negotiations with the British Government, it was decided that provision be made for a domestic coinage of 20 million pieces a year, and for the refining of gold on a small scale.

In 1905, construction began and, by 1907, the building was completed and machinery installed. The Ottawa Mint Proclamation in 1907, issued under the Imperial Coinage Act of 1870, fixed January 1, 1908, as the formal date for the establishment of the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint. On January 2, 1908, Governor-General Earl Grey, struck the first coin.

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1931 which established the Royal Canadian Mint as a branch of the Department of Finance on December 1 of that year, and the staff of the mint was transferred from the Imperial service to the Canadian civil service.

A committee was appointed in 1968 to draft the legislation to establish the mint as a corporate body. Under Part X of the Government Organization Act, 1969, assented to on March 28, 1969, the Mint was formally established as a Crown corporation on April 1, 1969.