

the Forties. While there he played a small part in *The Spoilers*, a film about the Klondike gold rush with Marlene Dietrich, Randolph Scott and John Wayne.

Lady Oracle, the latest novel by Margaret Atwood, continues as a best-seller in Canada. The North American paperback rights have been sold to Dell and McClelland and Stewart for \$175,000.

Colombo's Canadian References (Oxford) follows *Colombo's Concise Canadian Quotations*, published two years ago. The new book includes some 6,000 entries of typical Canadian events from poetry awards to tug-o'-war contest winners. There are also explanations of Canadian words like "figgy duff" and "Big Blue Machine". Notes on criminals, creators and sports figures are listed, as well as explanations of the Canadian postal code and the grading system of Canada Agricul-

ture. This major work, all arranged by subject, is a dictionary, encyclopedia, gazetteer and a who's who of Canadian identity.

As It Happened (McClelland and Stewart) by Barbara Frum, indefatigable hostess of "As it Happens", Canada's best-known "phone-out" radio program on current affairs, who has compiled some of her most interesting interviews. It includes conversations with William Buckley, Mickey Spillane, Maharshi Mahesh Yogi and Sandra Good, following her arrest after firing a shot at Gerald Ford before the U.S. elections.

The program, which is broadcast each weekday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., has been running for three years on CBC in Canada and now reaches listeners abroad through the CBC International service in North America and Europe.

Rise in pensions

Increases in the Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, became effective this month. Increases in Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments represent the thirteenth quarterly escalation based on the cost of living, as provided for in the Old Age Security Act.

The new monthly total at the single rate for persons receiving both the basic Old Age Security pension and maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement is \$240.47.

For a married couple, both pensioners, the combination of the basic pension and maximum supplement provides a payment of \$458.74 for the couple monthly.

The basic Old Age Security pension rises to \$141.34 from \$139.39.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement is paid to pensioners whose income, apart from the Old Age Security pension, is limited. The amount of the supplement varies in relation to the amount of income.

The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for a single person, or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner and is not receiving a Spouse's Allowance, rises to \$99.13 from \$97.76. The maximum supplement for a married couple, both pensioners, is now \$88.03 each from \$86.81. Added to the basic pension, this will give each married pensioner \$229.37 monthly, or a total of \$458.74 for the couple.

The Spouse's Allowance is paid to persons between 60 and 65 years of age who are married to Old Age Security pensioners and meet residence requirements. Entitlement to a Spouse's Allowance, and amount paid, is based on yearly income.

The maximum Spouse's Allowance increases to \$229.37 from \$226.20. The maximum Spouse's Allowance is made up of an amount equivalent to the basic Old Age Security pension and the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement at the married rate.

Canada Pension Plan

Some 865,000 Canada Pension Plan beneficiaries also receive increases of 8.2 per cent starting in January.

The increase, calculated on the past

year's rise in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index, applies to all persons in receipt of Canada Pension Plan benefits as of December 31, 1976.

The maximum retirement pension effective January 1977, will be \$173.61 a month; the maximum disability pension payable in 1977 is \$175.05 a month, while benefits for disabled contributors' children and orphans of deceased contributors are now \$44.84 a month. Maximum monthly surviving spouses' pensions are raised to \$109.94 for persons under age 65 and \$104.17 for spouses 65 or older.

News briefs

- The sale of 500,000 metric tons (about 18.4 million bushels) of wheat to Egypt was announced on December 16 by Otto Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, who said it was the first substantial sale to Egypt since 1970.
- An agreement has been signed with the Popular Republic of Congo under which \$33.3 million in credit will be extended to assist in the purchase of communications equipment in Canada worth \$38 million. The Export Development Corporation said a consortium of seven Canadian banks would lend the money.
- As part of a major transformation of its research funding organizations and scientific councils, the Federal Government proposes to transfer responsibility for Canadian Patents and Development Ltd. from the National Research Council to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.
- The export tax on oil to the United States increased by 85 cents a barrel on January 1. The rate is now \$4.60 a barrel for light and medium crude and condensate, \$3.75 for Lloydminster blend heavy oil and \$4.20 for other designated heavy oils. The domestic price, under an agreement with the provinces reached in July, rose by 70 cents a barrel on January 1.
- Defence Minister Barney Danson was in Washington December 16 for informal meetings with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and U.S. Defense officials to discuss matters of mutual concern and to follow up on his discussions in Brussels with Mr. Rumsfeld during the recent NATO ministerial meeting there.

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