

"As long as they have forage and a little shelter from the elements they don't need to be brought into barns every night," he explained.

"The whole point of the project is to develop a Canadian ranch-type operation using a minimum of manpower."

A team of buyers from Czechoslovakia visited Canada in early autumn and arranged to buy the cattle from 63 farms in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan at an average price of \$550 each. The whole project, including air transportation from Toronto to Czechoslovakia, was worth more than \$1 million to Canada.

The project will be monitored carefully and, if successful, could lead to purchases of up to 10,000 head of Canadian beef cattle.

Province increases interest in Bricklin

Premier Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick announced recently that the province would offer a loan of \$7.5 million to the Bricklin car company.

Bricklin Canada Ltd needs the additional financing to cover start-up costs, improve supplier lines of credit, improve the parts situation and bring the assembly line to a break-even production level of about 30 cars a day.

Following discussion with the company and the consultants, the government decided a further investment of \$7.5 million was needed to meet these problems and to place the company in a viable position. The government does not expect to invest any further in this project nor does it anticipate any further requests by the company for financial assistance from the province, Mr. Hatfield said.

The Premier pointed out that Bricklin Canada Ltd employed some 575 people at union wages in Saint John and Minto. The annual payroll of the company is in excess of \$5 million.

The general opinion from all sources in the North American market place is that the Bricklin enjoys high consumer demand and the car has been acknowledged by automobile experts as having first-rate performance.

"The province owns 67 per cent of Bricklin Canada Ltd and as a result of its additional financial commitment the province will assume increased involvement in the entire Bricklin organization. The province will take the

majority position on Bricklin Canada's board of directors; and will increase its managerial involvement in General Vehicle Inc., the parent company, and its marketing subsidiary, Bricklin Vehicle Corp.," said Mr. Hatfield.

"The province will have invested in Bricklin Canada Ltd \$1 million in equity; \$4 million in guaranteed loans; with the rest as direct advances by Provincial Holdings."

Gull Island hydro development

Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Don Jamieson, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, announced last month that the Federal Government had agreed to provide loans to the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Corporation, at Crown corporation rates, of up to \$343 million for the Gull Island hydroelectric development in Labrador. The loans will represent 50 per cent of the estimated cost of high voltage direct-current transmission facilities between the Gull Island site on the Churchill River in Labrador and load centres in Newfoundland and will include a tunnel cable crossing under the Strait of Belle Isle. Also included is an alternating current transmission tie to the Churchill Falls power project, thereby connecting the Newfoundland power system to that of Quebec.

Important link with Quebec

The development of the Gull Island hydroelectric project, together with the proposed transmission system, represents the long-term best option for the expansion of electrical energy supply to the island of Newfoundland. Important additional advantages will accrue from the extension of the transmission system to tie in with the Hydro Quebec system. Discussions are taking place between the Newfoundland and Quebec utilities on arrangements to exchange surplus energy over this transmission link to the mutual advantage of both provinces.

Annual output

The proposed installation on Gull Island will have an installed capacity of 1,800 megawatts and an annual energy output of 11.65 billion kilowatt hours a year. The transmission system to Newfoundland will be nearly 640 miles long to a terminal station near

St. John's. Present plans call for an 800-KV high voltage direct-current system capable of delivering 1,600 megawatts to the island of Newfoundland.

The Gull Island hydroelectric generating station will be located on the Churchill River some 140 miles downstream of the now completed 5,225-megawatt Churchill Falls generating station and will use the same water supply. The development, based on a renewable resource, provides an option to increased dependence on oil-fuelled electrical energy generation and in energy an equivalent to Newfoundland's current total oil consumption of 50,000 barrels a day.

Upon the completion of the Gull transmission link and of the cable interconnection to Prince Edward Island for which federal financial support was announced on February 10, all provinces will have electrical power systems which are interconnected with a neighbouring province.

Native alcohol-abuse program

The Federal Government is increasing its efforts to deal with the problems of alcohol abuse among native people. A new program, announced by Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde and Indian Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan, will be a joint effort by the two Departments to assist the Indian and Inuit people in fighting alcohol abuse and its harmful effects on health and on family and community life.

Federal funds for the program in 1975-76 and the two following fiscal years will be in excess of \$3 million yearly, compared to an amount of about \$1 million provided for native alcohol-abuse activities in 1974-75.

Under the new program native people will be invited to formulate projects, which they would mainly implement themselves, in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling. A national advisory board in Ottawa will provide guidance and direction to the program. Membership will comprise senior members of the two Departments and representatives of national Indian and Inuit associations. Regional advisory boards will be set up on the same basis in each province and territory, with invitations also extended to provincial and territorial governments to participate.