

NHA INTEREST RATES HIKED

The Minister of Labour, Mr. J.R. Nicholson, has announced an increase from 7¼ to 8¼ per cent in the National Housing Act interest rate, effective October 1.

There will be no change in the NHA interest rate policy on loans for public housing, homes for the elderly, student housing and urban renewal, which, the Minister said, were social areas of the greatest need. The boost to 8¼ per cent, which will remain fixed until the next quarterly adjustment on January 1, is aimed at attracting private funds into housing.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Nicholson emphasized that the new rate was the maximum permissible. Private lenders would of course, be able to lend below that rate.

NEW CANADIAN ARTISTS

Three master craftsmen from Europe, all of whom have chosen Canada as their new homeland, combined their talents for an exhibition that opened at the Galerie des Artisans, Montreal, on October 4 and will end on October 27. The show features the stained glass windows, panels and screens of Ernestine Tahedl of Austria and the sculpture, dividing-screens and decorative pieces in iron by Jean Michel of France and Wocjiec Jarnuszkiewicz of Poland.

Miss Tahedl and Mr. Jarnuszkiewicz came to Canada in 1963; Mr. Michel had arrived the year before.

The Galerie des Artisans is the showcase for fine crafts of the Canadian Guild of Crafts (formerly the Canadian Handicrafts Guild). Exhibitions are held regularly during the year to show the work not only of Canadians but of craftsmen from other countries.

BOOKS FROM BRITAIN

As part of its centenary gift, Britain is giving to Canada a collection of several thousand books, many of them rare, for the new National Library in Ottawa.

The books, most of which have arrived in Ottawa, fall into three groups - current British publications, important historical works and antiquarian material. The last group, though the smallest, is probably the most important in value and contains many books of great rarity.

Among these is a 1508 edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, which includes the Ruysch map, the first in any edition of Ptolemy to show the New World. There is also a 1632 edition of Champlain's voyages, which contains the first clear map of the Great Lakes and the rivers that feed them. Another important atlas is *Saxton's County Atlas of Britain 1574-1579*, which was the first to contain maps of the English and Welsh counties.

Also included in this section are such rare works as a first (1482) printing of Euclid's *Elementa* and a first (1513) printing of Plato as well as a copy of the rare *Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la mission des Pères de la Compagnie de Jésus*, written by the Jesuit missionary Father Paul Rageneau and published in Paris in 1651.

Included in the other categories of publication are such diverse items as *The Present State of Hudson's Bay*, written by a fur trader named Edward Umfreville and published in 1790; a first edition of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*; the seven volumes of Le Corbusier's *Complete Architectural Works*; the full scores of the works of Franz Liszt and Benjamin Britten; the Hansard Society's *Parliamentary Reform 1933-1960*; and a microfilm run of the *Glasgow Herald* from 1783 to the present day.

BANK RATE UP

The Bank of Canada has announced that the bank rate had been raised by one-half per cent to five per cent, effective September 27.

In a statement issued on September 26, it was stated that, while the money supply had been rising substantially in recent months, short-term market interest rates had also risen to the point where the previous level of the bank rate was no longer appropriate.

DRIVER EDUCATION IN QUEBEC

Two of Canada's ten provinces, Quebec and Saskatchewan, now have legislation making it possible for secondary schools to offer driver education courses within the school curriculum.

In Quebec, driver education will be compulsory for students in car mechanics and optional for all others. School boards wishing to introduce driver education must meet certain pre-determined requirements of the departments of education and transport and communications. These are:

- (1) that programme standards set by the department of education are respected;
- (2) that both theory and behind-the-wheel phases be taught by duly qualified instructors;
- (3) that classrooms be made available for the theory part of the course;
- (4) that proper agreements be signed with cardealers relative to materials needed for the instruction;
- (5) that liaison be maintained with interested divisions of the department of transport and communications;
- (6) that students be assured adequate protection both physically and morally;
- (7) that proper reports be prepared and submitted to the department;
- (8) that proper insurance coverage be obtained against possible damage resulting from the use or driving of the automobiles.