



Bulletin

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NEW LOOK FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Bryce Mackasey, Minister of Labour, tabled in the House of Commons on June 17 a White Paper outlining a new unemployment insurance program that will extend coverage to virtually all wage-earners in Canada, regardless of income or profession, except self-employed persons. In all, the plan will cover about 1,160,000 new workers, bringing the total of insured employees in Canada to 6.5 million.

Another basic change visualized in the White Paper, which is entitled Unemployment Insurance in the 70s, is the elimination of the present salary cut-off of \$7,800 a year, which up to now has excluded nearly 600,000 employees. Also, there are nearly 1 million persons now covered by unemployment insurance who earn over \$7,800 a year but who contribute because they are paid by the hour.

Benefit payments, which now reach a maximum of \$53 a week for an employee with dependants, would be increased to a weekly maximum of \$100. The plan also proposes the payment of special benefits when

loss of income occurs as a result of illness, retirement and pregnancy.

The White Paper constitutes the first revision of the Unemployment Insurance Act in Canada as a whole, since the original legislation went into force 30 years ago.

Excerpts from Mr. Mackasey's statement to the House of Commons follow:

...The plan will provide for a series of up to three interviews for all those who suffer from interruptions of earnings due to loss of work. These interviews are intended primarily to aid the individual in his search for employment. They will also help, however, to identify those persons who should not be receiving benefits.

Coverage will become universal. Some will call this an unnecessary imposition on those who apparently are secure in their employment. Perhaps they need not fear unemployment in the classical sense. But surely there is no one any more who can say with certainty that he or she will never suffer a temporary interruption of earnings.

The benefit rates are to be substantially increased in order to provide meaningful income support during the employment search or training period.

The benefit rate will be two-thirds of average wages during the qualifying period, rising to three-quarters in the later stages for persons with dependants. The maximum benefit, however, will be \$100 a week.

CONTRIBUTIONS LOWER

Employee contributions will be significantly lower than at present, while the employer cost will vary from well below the present costs to slightly higher, depending on their lay-off pattern. For example, the employee who earns \$100 per week presently pays \$1.40. This will be reduced to 79 cents under the new plan. The employer now pays \$1.40 for that same employee and this rate could drop to as low as 79 cents. Persons already in the labour force excluded

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under the present Act will enter at a preferred contribution rate with a maximum of 50 cents a week.

Benefits will also be extended to those who suffer loss of income due to sickness, pregnancy and retirement. These benefits will be for a 15-week maximum, with the exception of the retirement benefit which will consist of a three-week lump sum.

ELIGIBILITY

In harmony with our intention to return to the insurance principle, certain welfare features that have crept into the plan will be discontinued. For example, the seasonal benefits as well as the provisions that permitted retired persons to draw up to 18 months of benefits will be dropped. However, eligibility will be expanded to allow those persons with as few as eight employment weeks to draw some benefit.

In addition, the Government is not only proposing to help the unemployed and the less advantaged by providing an expanded system of income support during an adjustment process, it is also ready to assume the cost of extra unemployment insurance benefits when national unemployment rates exceed 4 per cent or when regional unemployment is over 4 per cent and exceeds the national average by more than 1 per cent.

Finally, it is important to point out that the 4 percent level is not to be taken as a rate of unemployment acceptable to the Government. A benchmark of 4 per cent, based on a long-term average national unemployment rate, was used to set the lower limit for government contribution. It is in no way intended to be a definition of full employment for the economy....

ONTARIO WILDLIFE CENTRE

"Survival of man in an environment fit for man will be assured only if the people understand the ecological basis of their lives," said Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, recently at the formal opening of the Wye Marsh Centre, which is run by the Canadian Wildlife Service, a branch of Mr. Chrétien's Department.

The Minister said the Centre had been built to help meet the need for greater public understanding of ecology — the relation between living things and their environment. It is the first of a proposed series of such centres that will interpret different regions of Canada. At the Wye Marsh Centre, naturalists explain how man has changed the marsh and the surrounding hardwood forest region. They also help visitors to see and understand wild nature.

Located four miles east of Midland on Ontario's Georgian Bay, the Centre is a single-storey brick-and-glass building containing a display hall, a theatre and workrooms. The building and landscaping cost about \$500,000. Twenty-five hundred acres of surrounding woodlands and marsh are owned for the most part by the Ontario Department of Lands and

Forests and in this region its Fish and Wildlife branch will develop a managed area for hunting wildfowl and upland game birds.

OPENING DAY

Visitors at the opening ceremony saw some of the normal exhibits available to the public until Labour Day, including films on marsh life, conservation and aquariums and displays on land-use, plant life and waterfowl. At the entrance to the display area a closed-circuit television screen provides close-ups of wildlife activity.

Outside, visitors explored some of the nature trails on their own or with naturalists who gave them firsthand information on local plants and animals. The CWS interpretation program tries to demonstrate and explain nature using as few gadgets as possible. Visitors also saw an underwater viewing window now being built on the marsh. Future plans for the Centre include an observation tower and a long boardwalk into the marsh.

HOGS TO EAST GERMANY

A shipment of 110 hogs has been sent to the German Democratic Republic by the National Feeds division of National Grain (1968) Limited.

Arrangements for the shipment, a direct result of talks between National Grain officials and an East German agricultural trade mission last spring, have taken about 12 months.

Mr. Stan Roberts, manager of the Canadian firm, said that this was the first major shipment of Canadian pigs to East Germany and the first time that National had tried its hand at selling purebred hogs in the export market. It was not National's first entry into this market, however, as the company had previously made shipments of Canadian purebred dairy cattle and Canadian-made processing equipment to East Germany.

The animals shipped were purebred Lacombe hogs raised in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, which integrate well with other breeds and are mainly used in cross-breeding programs.

FOREST FIRES IN APRIL

Forest-fire activity throughout Canada this April was considerably below the average for recent years, the Canadian Forestry Service of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry reports.

There were an estimated 310 fires in April, the first month of the forest-fire season, which damaged or destroyed some 3,000 acres of woodlands.

During the previous decade there was an average of 538 forest fires in the month of April, the total woodland area affected averaging 17,000 acres. April 1969 was also below average, with 322 fires that spread over 2,000 acres of forest.

CANADIAN HOUSING IN FRANCE

The Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, and Mr. Robert André Vivien, France's Secretary of State for Housing, presided at the official opening last month of the first project undertaken by a company, financed by Franco-Canadian funds, formed to promote the use in France of Canadian timber-frame construction techniques.⁽¹⁾

Located at Igny in the Bievre Valley, the "Parc des Erables", as it has been called, is about 20 kilometres from Paris.

To mark this event the two ministers, using symbolic silver shovels, planted a maple tree.

Mr. Pepin also had talks in Paris with Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French Minister of Finance, Mr. François Xavier Ortolini, Minister of Development and Scientific Research, and Mr. Jacques Duhamel, Minister of Agriculture.

The Igny housing project is being built by a Franco-Canadian consortium, Dumez-Campeau Limited of Paris. Mr. Pepin said he hoped the joint effort would pave the way for closer economic and trade relations between France and Canada.

"This to me is a typical example of the way in which the Government can effectively assist in creating the favourable climate that will permit private enterprise to launch a new and daring venture, which naturally entails a certain amount of risk," Mr. Pepin said.

OUTLINE OF PROJECT

In 1967, a French mission composed of top-level housing authorities came to Canada on the invitation of the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade

and Commerce. Members of the mission were favourably impressed with the Canadian timber-frame construction techniques and recommended a pilot project of some 100 homes.

These were to be built by a French firm in co-operation with a Canadian one. After further extensive studies, including the visit to France of a special Canadian housing mission in 1968, and as a result of consultations with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Canadian Association of Home Builders, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce opened talks with the French Government and decided to support the project.

As a second step, it was necessary to find a French partner who would show an interest in a joint undertaking of this nature, as well as a Canadian firm which had considerable experience in the construction of private dwellings. This search led to the formation of the Dumez-Campeau Company, joint subsidiaries of the Dumez Company of Paris, and of the Campeau Corporation of Ottawa.

The Igny project will comprise 114 homes, six of which have already been built. One of these, known as the "X-Ray House", was specially designed to enable architects and contractors to examine closely the workings of the Canadian technique used in the construction of timber-frame homes.

This joint undertaking is not the only arrangement of its nature existing between France and Canada. Other agreements have been arrived at during the past few years and they now exist in practically every branch of industry, trade and services.

⁽¹⁾ See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 24, No. 29, July 16, 1969, P. 5.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Canadian delegation at the thirty-second session of the International Conference on Education, held in Geneva from July 1-9, under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education (IBE) was led by Dr. J.C. McIsaac, Minister of Education for Saskatchewan, and included as delegates: Mr. F.T. Atkinson, Deputy Minister of Education for New Brunswick, Miss Thérèse Baron, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education for Quebec, Reverend Father J.H. Conway, Rector of Holy Rosary Scholasticate, Orleans, Ontario, Miss Lorraine Leblanc, Professor at l'Ecole Normale de Moncton, Dr. G.N. Perry, Deputy Minister of Education for British Columbia.

The agenda for this year's conference included a study of the improvement of the effectiveness of educational systems through the reduction of wastage at all levels of education. The delegates considered major trends in educational development, basing their

discussion on recent developments in education within their respective countries.

Canadian participation at the thirty-second session of the International Conference on Education was of particular significance in 1970, the year designated by the United Nations as International Education Year.

PRAIRIE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Winnipeg is the major wholesaling centre for the Prairie Provinces. In 1961, the latest year for which figures are available, the value of wholesale trade in the Prairie metropolis at \$3.0 billion, was the highest in Canada. The figure for Montreal was \$2.4 billion, for Calgary and Edmonton \$0.55 billion each and for Regina and Saskatoon under \$0.25 billion.

The 1961 census listed 1,140 wholesale firms in Greater Winnipeg, and in recent years a number of distributors have expanded or located in the area.

CANADA-U.S. TOP LEVEL TALKS ON GREAT LAKES POLLUTION

Ministers and representatives of the Governments of Canada and the United States met on June 23 in Ottawa to discuss common problems of pollution in the Great Lakes.

The meeting discussed the recommendations in a special report submitted in April by the International Joint Commission on potential oil pollution, eutrophication and pollution from watercraft.

It was agreed that:

(a) The Canadian contingency plan for the Great Lakes for spills of oil and hazardous materials, which will shortly come into operation, will be fully co-ordinated with the new United States plan.

(b) Inputs of phosphates into the Great Lakes should be reduced in order to arrest and reverse eutrophication of the Great Lakes. Canadian legislation will permit the Canadian Government to implement the Commission's recommendations for reducing and eliminating phosphates from detergents and the Canadian Government has announced its intentions to take action that would meet the IJC recommendations. Standards are in effect on the United States side of the Lakes which will require the achievement of an 80 percent removal of all phosphates from municipal and industrial sewage (including detergents) by 1973, and in advance of the target date of 1975 recommended by the Commission; the United States Government is continuing its intensive review of the removal of phosphates from detergents.

(c) In both countries legislation exists for the regulation of waste disposal by commercial vessels and pleasure craft, and the ministers concerned have agreed to achieve compatible regulations.

LESS GAS DRILLING

It was noted that the Ontario Government intends to modify its gas-drilling program on Lake Erie to con-

form to the recommendations of the Commission in the special report. There is no gas-well drilling by Michigan, Ohio, New York or Pennsylvania in Lake Erie. It was further noted that phosphate-removal facilities were being initiated by Ontario with a view to meeting the recommendations of the Commissioners.

Ministers and representatives expressed deep concern about the critical situation in the Great Lakes, and noted the determination of the Governments to take decisive action.

The Ministers have agreed to the establishment of a working group to consider common water-quality objectives and implementing programs that may be proposed by either Government to the working group. This working group will report back to this ministerial conference, which will be reconvened subsequent to the final report of the IJC.

DELEGATES

The United States delegation was led by Mr. Russell E. Train, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, United States Ambassador Adolph Schmidt, Mr. Carl L. Klein, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Water Quality Research and Rear Admiral Robert W. Goehring, Chief of Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, who were accompanied by senior officials from the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation and the Council on Environmental Quality.

The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. J.J. Greene, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. J. Davis, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Herb Gray, Minister without Portfolio and Mr. George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources Management for Ontario.

AIRFIELDS FOR EASTERN ARCTIC

Construction of the first of six airfields to be built in Canada's Eastern Arctic will begin early in August at Pangnirtung on Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island, Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced recently. Construction will be carried out by engineers of the Canadian Armed Forces, using local labour as much as possible, during the next five summers.

The \$2-million project is part of the \$5,616,000 Remote Airports Program planned and financed by the Indian Affairs Department, calling for a total of ten airfields in the next nine years in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. These are designed to make the Arctic regions more accessible to year-round air traffic and to improve medical, educational and other services in the North.

In the Eastern Arctic, airfields are planned at Chesterfield Inlet, Pond Inlet, Whale Cove, Igloodik and Cape Dorset, besides Pangnirtung. These communities are all located on Baffin Island or on the mainland near Hudson Bay.

RUNWAY DESIGN

The basic runway design provides for gravel strips at least 2,600 feet long and 100 feet wide, suitable for two-engine aircraft. Where possible, forces engineers will increase the size of the basic field to 4,000 feet by 150 feet to accommodate large military transport planes. The cost of these extensions, estimated at \$650,000, will be borne by the Department of National Defence. Primitive airstrips accommodating only light planes are in existence at some sites but are not suitable for year-round use.

FAMED REGIMENTS BECOME HISTORY

Two noted Canadian infantry regiments — the Black Watch and the Canadian Guards — ceased last month to exist as separate entities. Their demise was a result of the decision announced last September by the Minister of National Defence to reduce the number of regular and militia units in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Black Watch, the two regular units, will be “re-badged” into the Royal Canadian Regiment during July; the 3rd Battalion will continue its role as a militia unit based in Montreal.

The 1st Battalion The Canadian Guards, having been reduced to “nil strength”, the 2nd Battalion will become the 3rd Battalion RCR. The life of this regiment had been brief — it was organized in 1953.

TAPS TO THE GUARDS

On June 6, the 2nd Battalion trooped the colours for the last time on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The final ceremony involved 324 officers and men, with the addition of the Canadian Armed Forces National Band and the regimental pipes and drums. Governor-General Roland Michener inspected the Guards and read the Queen’s farewell address. After the trooping ceremony, the unit marched to Rideau Hall, the viceregal residence, to “lay up” their colours.

CORONACH FOR THE BLACK WATCH

On June 14, the two regular battalions and the reserve battalion of the Royal Highland Regiment — better known as The Black Watch — marched through downtown Montreal to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, where, following a memorial service, they



Sheila Cairns, five years old, checks over Corporal Sandy Bowen of the Canadian Guards before the final trooping of the colours ceremony on June 6.



The Black Watch parading to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal on June 14.

laid up the colours that were so rich in battle honours. In an address to the congregation, Lieutenant-Colonel J.G. Bourne, Colonel of the regiment, recalled the martial exploits of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, which had displayed in abundance, during two world wars, the spirit not only of the Canadian Black Watch but of its parent Scottish regiment — the first Highland unit ever formed in Britain.

THE BLACK WATCH OF CANADA

The Royal Light Infantry of Montreal, formed in 1862, was affiliated from the start to the Black Watch in Scotland. The name Black Watch (given because of the dark regimental tartan and its role — to watch) began to be used after April 1, 1920, though the tartan had been worn since the formation of the regiment.

Although some Black Watch personnel participated in the Boer War as volunteers with the Canadian contingent, it was only during the First World War that the regiment officially participated in war-time operations. In 1914, two battalions volunteered for service as complete units; later, a third battalion was formed. The Black Watch was the only Canadian regiment to have three battalions in action; all three fought at Vimy Ridge on the same day in 1917. By the end of the war, the regiment had earned 23 battle honours.

SECOND WORLD WAR

The 1st Battalion was stationed in England from 1940 to 1944, carrying on training and standing ready to help in the defence of Britain. In 1942, 'C' Company and a mortar platoon took part in the Dieppe landing, during which they suffered heavy casualties. In 1944, a month after the landing in Normandy, the Black Watch was sent to the Continent and, during the next 11 months, participated in some 30 battles in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. One of its greatest, and probably most costly, engagements occurred at Mai-sur-Orne and St-André in Normandy. The war over, The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada returned to its role of a reserve regiment.

Since then, its battalions have taken part in NATO operations in Germany, and have served in Korea and in Cyprus.

GRANT TO RURAL JAMAICA

Supplies of drinking water in rural areas of Jamaica are to be improved with the assistance of a \$200,000-Canadian grant. The funds, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency, will pay for the purchase and shipment of materials for

community standpipes, pumping and distribution facilities. Construction will be directed by local parish councils, who will pay 50 per cent of the cost from their own resources. The program is aimed at making drinkable water more easily accessible.

Improvements in the water-supply will create better health conditions in rural areas and allow the population to undertake more productive work than the carrying of water. For many children, it will mean more time to attend school.

The Canadian grant is part of a continuing program of assistance in this field, which has included \$150,000 in 1964 and \$175,000 in 1967.

SPORTS AT MAN AND HIS WORLD

The locations and facilities for the 1976 Summer Olympic Games, which were awarded to Montreal, are explained in detail in the Olympic section of the sports pavilion at Man and His World 1970. The stadiums, playing fields, swimming and diving pools, accommodations for athletes, transportation networks and other necessary facilities are shown on scale-models photographs and maps.

An added element of the pavilion's Olympic section is a display portraying Canada's Olympic contestants, among others Debby Brill, Bruce Simpson, George Puce, Yves Landry, Dorothy Lidstone, Ralph Hutton, Colette Duhamel and Jerry Hirose.

TV monitors show films of the 1964 and 1968 Summer Olympic Games which were held in Tokyo and Mexico.

The Olympic section invites visitors to test their fitness level against a government standard. Successful "competitors" receive a medal or citation attesting to their fitness.

In the winter sports section visitors mount a rotating platform which simulates a slalom. By grasping fixed "ski-poles", visitors can manoeuvre their feet and legs in the approved Jean-Claude Killy or Nancy Greene style.

The hockey section again features National Hockey League stars demonstrating shooting and goal-tending.

A new section is devoted exclusively to participation and demonstration. There are demonstrations of judo, boxing, karate, fencing and gymnastics. Visitors are invited to try ping-pong, tennis, trampolines, archery, weightlifting, soccer, badminton, basket-ball, lacrosse and volley-ball.

Another new section deals with the scientific aspects of sport. Exhibits show how medicine and technology have made sports safer and how more efficient equipment has been developed.