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Third Law of the Sea Conference makes some headway

Significant progress was made at the recent session of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in New York, said Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen in a report to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence on May 11.

Although a number of issues remained for further negotiation, the new negotiating text produced at the Conference was, he stated, "a considerable improvement over last year's draft".

Excerpts follow from Mr. MacEachen's review of developments affecting main issues at the Conference and their impact on Canada's interests:

* * * *

The first part of the new text deals with the range of complex and radically new concepts that are being developed in order to regulate future activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. It now provides, in my view, many of the basic elements necessary for a true accommodation of interests between developing and developed countries. Whereas the articles drafted in Geneva last year were regarded by the technologically-advanced countries as impracticable, the new text represents a more realistic approach to the problem. At the same time, the concept that the international area will be the "common heritage of mankind" and not an area of renewed colonial expansion, has been given more specific and concrete meaning through a series of new draft articles and technical annexes covering a wide range of issues....

Economic zone intact

The second part of the new text deals, among other questions, with the economic-zone concept, a concept which we regard as the foundation stone of any successful law of the sea conference. In spite of the many attempts made by certain groups, notably the landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states and some of the long-distance fishing nations, to erode the very nature of the economic zone, the concept has emerged unscathed and is now firmly entrenched in the consensus which is reflected in the revised single negotiating text. This means that Canada would acquire sovereign rights

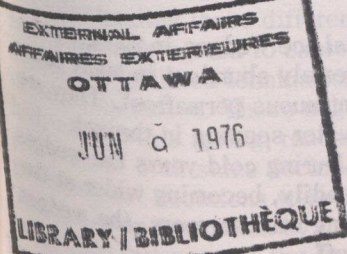
over living resources (that is, fisheries resources) out to 200 miles, would maintain its sovereign right over the resources of the continental shelf out to the edge of the continental margin, and would have recognized in specific treaty language its right to preserve the marine environment and control scientific research.

On fisheries, the basic compromise reflected in the original single negotiating text accommodated all essential Canadian interests, and has re-emerged intact in the revised text.... The most difficult issue that remains to be resolved is the question of rights of access by landlocked and "geographically disadvantaged" states to the fisheries within the economic zones of coastal states in the same region or sub-region....

With respect to the continental shelf, the previous affirmation of coastal states sovereign rights to the edge of the continental margin was confirmed together with the concept of revenue-sharing in respect of the seabed resources found between the 200-mile limit and edge of the margin.

Marine environment

Canada was extremely active in New York in the debate on the preservation of the marine environment. The basic Canadian approach is reflected in the revised single negotiating text on this subject, whereby the draft articles establish an umbrella convention laying down fundamental treaty obligations to preserve the marine environment. The original single negotiating text was already in large measure accept-



able to Canada but it was particularly deficient in our view on the subject of the control of pollution from ships. It provided very limited powers to coastal states over ships found in the territorial sea, economic zone, or in ports (in respect of violations committed elsewhere). The revised single negotiating text contains major improvements. It moves some appreciable way towards striking the balance between, on the one hand, the rights and duties which coastal states, flag states and port states must have to control pollution from vessels, and, on the other hand, the need to maintain freedom of maritime commerce and communications.

Canada has also been seeking a provision in this section of the convention which would provide international recognition that Canada has the right to protect the Arctic marine environment by the imposition of higher vessel-source pollution standards than those agreed to internationally. The revised single negotiating text contains such a provision....

* * * *

Scientific research

The articles in the revised text on marine scientific research provide, in our view, a large measure of protection to vital coastal state interests in the economic zone and on the continental shelf, while at the same time ensuring that important international interests in promoting and co-operating in research programs are not impeded.... Likewise, the articles on transfer of technology provide that states shall co-operate in providing the developing countries with the scientific and technological capability they need for the utilization and management of their marine resources and the protection of the marine environment. At the same time, the text recognizes that this co-operation must have proper regard for all legitimate interests, including the rights and duties of holders, suppliers and recipients of marine technology.

Disputes settlement outstanding

...Canada supported the inclusion of comprehensive dispute-settlement procedures in the convention.... The new Part IV of the single negotiating text on the settlement of disputes appears

unduly complicated and will require refinement and simplification. Since dispute settlement was discussed for the first time in the plenary session of the Conference in April of this year, it remains one of the outstanding issues upon which negotiation will begin at the next session of the Conference....

Canada, therefore, has good reason to be pleased with the results of the Conference. Unfortunately, the Conference was not able to conclude its work. It is encouraging, however, that a further session will be held within a relatively short space of time in New York, beginning August 2 and extending until September 17.

* * * *

Science scholarships

The National Research Council of Canada has awarded 1,810 postgraduate scholarships and 132 postdoctoral fellowships for 1976-77 with an estimated total value of \$11 million. The scholarships have a value of \$5,520 for 12 months, the fellowships, \$11,220 for 12 months.

These awards represent an important aspect of the Council's effort to maintain a basic capacity for research training in science and engineering. The aim is to support the provision of postgraduate scientific manpower for the creation of knowledge and the application of science related to Canadian needs.

Postgraduate scholarships are awarded to first-class students to enable them to pursue graduate studies leading to the Ph.D. degree. Postdoctoral fellowships are awarded to recent Ph.D. graduates to help them in acquiring additional research experience which, in many instances, is a prerequisite for an academic or industrial career.

The National Research Council of Canada has also awarded 43 new "1967 science scholarships" for 1976-77.

First awarded in 1967, these scholarships marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's scholarships program and the centennial of Canadian confederation.

Recipients receive \$7,000 dollars a year for three years, renewable for a fourth year, if necessary.

Habitat Conference

At press time, Governor-General Jules Léger was expected to welcome delegates and officially open the Habitat United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver from May 29 to June 11, when about 125 countries would probably be represented. Some 3,000 delegates, as well as people attending Habitat Forum were expected at what is probably the largest ever UN meeting.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson were to speak following the Governor General.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, was to give the first general statement in which he was expected to outline Canada's position, comparing national policies and experiences in human settlements.

Two of Canada's main aims at the Conference, said federal sources, were a ten-year target for universal clean water supplies and a reorganized UN agency to handle problems of human settlements.

Details of the Conference will appear in a subsequent issue.

Climate getting colder?

Proponents of the theory — often based only on a hunch — that the world's climate has been getting colder in recent years can draw some support from a study of ground ice wedges made recently in the Arctic on behalf of the Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Vertical ice wedges in the ground are extremely abundant in many areas with continuous permafrost. They are fed by water seeping in through cracks. During cold years the wedges grow steadily, becoming wider at the top; during warmer years, the wedges are cut off.

It has been found that a major cut-off of the ice wedges occurred five to ten years ago. Since then secondary wedges began to grow on top of the old ones, indicating that the climate was again getting colder and the upper level of the permanently frozen ground was rising.

Canada cuts nuclear co-operation with India

Canada has decided to make permanent its suspension of nuclear co-operation with India. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, announced in the House of Commons on May 18 that further nuclear co-operation with that country was not possible. Nuclear co-operation was suspended in May 1974, when India exploded a bomb made with plutonium from a small Canadian-supplied pilot reactor.

Mr. MacEachen explained the reason for the Federal Government's decision:

* * * *

India's detonation of a nuclear explosive device in 1974 made it evident that Canada and India have taken profoundly differing views of what should be encompassed in the peaceful application of nuclear energy by non-nuclear weapon states. Canada is one of the earliest and most vigorous proponents of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A basic element of the Treaty, which guides Canadian policy in the field of nuclear exports and safeguards, is that it recognizes no technical distinction between nuclear explosives for peaceful and non-peaceful purposes.

Canada has foregone the possible benefits of developing so-called peaceful nuclear explosions on the basis that pursuant to the NPT, nuclear explosive services would be available from a nuclear-weapon state at such time as need and feasibility are demonstrated. India, however, does not accept what it views as discrimination between the nuclear powers and other states and insists that all countries should be free to use all phases of nuclear technology for whatever they view as peaceful purposes.

Safeguards essential

Notwithstanding these differences, both countries agreed to explore together a negotiated termination of nuclear co-operation. These negotiations had, earlier this spring, reached a point where both sides decided that governmental decisions were required. The decision now taken by Cabinet takes into full account the issues that I raised when I spoke in the House on March 23. Canada has insisted that any co-operation in the nuclear field be fully covered by safeguards which satisfy the Canadian people that Canadian assistance will not be diverted to nuclear-explosive purposes. This Canadian objective could not be

achieved in these negotiations.

Both sides have made a concerted effort in good faith to reach a basis for agreement. However the Canadian Government has decided that it could agree to make new nuclear shipments only on an undertaking by India that Canadian supplies, whether of technology, nuclear equipment or materials, whether past or future, shall not be used for the manufacture of any nuclear-explosive device. In the present case, this undertaking would require that all nuclear facilities, involving Canadian technology, in India be safeguarded. We would be prepared to reach agreement with India on this basis only. In view of earlier discussions, however, we have concluded that the Indian Government would not be prepared to accept safeguards on other than the RAPP reactors, which are already under international safeguards.

...The decisions reached by the Government relating to one aspect of our relations are not intended to preclude the pursuit of other elements of mutual interest in our over-all links with India. The Canadian Government remains prepared to review these elements and to pursue our common objectives in both bilateral and multilateral fields because we believe that our ties with this important developing Commonwealth nation must not be allowed to lapse through any lack of will on our part.

Canadian cattle in India

Canadian dairy cattle are helping India achieve increased milk production.

Research indicates that offspring of native Indian cows and Canadian dairy bulls produce eight times as much milk as native cattle. Three cross-bred

cows can raise an Indian farmer's wage above poverty level.

Two shipments of dairy heifers made the 8,000-mile air flight this winter from Toronto — one each to Bombay and Delhi. The Canadian Hunger Foundation, an affiliate of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, sent the heifers — and enough semen to service them at maturity — to two non-profit Indian organizations for local herd-improvement programs.

"These are projects to better the lot of marginal farmers," says Catherine Harvey, project officer with the Canadian Hunger Foundation in Ottawa.

The Canadian heifers will form the basis of a purebred breeding herd from which the progeny tested male offspring will be kept for semen collection. Semen from these bulls will be used for artificial insemination services and dairy herd-management extension programs in rural areas by Indian veterinarians. Sale of milk from the female progeny will help support the foundation breeding herd.

The first shipment of 86 Holstein and 60 Jersey heifers, six to 18 months old, went to Bharatiya Agro-industry Foundation near Poona. The foundation's director personally selected the heifers from southwestern Ontario purebred herds.

The second shipment of 300, three-month-old, purebred Holstein heifers went to the Punjab Dairy Development Corporation near Chandigarh, capital of the Punjab.

Oil and gas prices rise

The domestic price of crude oil will be increased by \$1.75 a barrel in two stages over the next year, announced Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie on May 18. The price will rise \$1.05 a barrel on July 1 and a further 70 cents on January 1. The current price is \$8 a barrel.

The increase in July will mean an additional three cents on a gallon of gasoline or heating fuel; the increase in January will add a further two cents a gallon.

The price of natural gas will increase by 15.5 cents a thousand cubic feet on July 1 and by a further ten cents next January 1. It now sells for \$1.25 wholesale in Toronto.

Loto Canada — new national lottery to replace Olympic lottery

Treasury Board President Jean Chrétien announced in the House of Commons on May 10 the creation of a national lottery to be known as Loto Canada.

The Government had decided he said, to "create, manage and operate a national lottery, primarily to assist, until the end of 1979, in financing on a voluntary basis the deficits of the 1976 Olympics at Montreal and the 1978 Commonwealth Games at Edmonton".

The popularity of the Olympic lottery, and the substantial net revenues it has generated to date (slightly more than \$168 million) suggest that Canadians might be willing to continue assisting in the financing of the Olympics through voluntary payments.

Subject to the approval of Parliament and support from both sides of the House, 82.5 per cent of the net revenues will be used to assist in the financing of the 1976 and 1978 games; 12.5 per cent will be shared among the provinces, according to sales in their jurisdiction, and the remaining 5 per cent will be used by the Government to finance physical fitness, amateur sport and recreational programs.

"As yet, no formula has been established for the sharing of the lottery's net revenues after 1979. This will be the object of further consideration and consultation with the provinces as rapidly as possible."

Mr. Chrétien stressed that "the Government's initiative was consistent with its long-standing policy concerning the Olympics, namely that no direct grant from the general revenues of the treasury will be made to finance these games, but that steps would be taken to ensure the success of the revenue-generating programs".

Loto Canada Inc., the name of the Crown corporation that will administer the lottery, will be subject to a compulsory annual audit by the Auditor General.

Loto Canada tickets will be on sale in early August and the first draw will be held in December.

The Olympic lottery format will be used — \$10 tickets and top prizes of \$1 million.

National atlas wins award

Governor-General Jules Léger, patron of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, presented last month the Society's gold medal to Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, whose Department produced the fourth edition of *The National Atlas of Canada*.

The fourth edition was co-published late in 1974, by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd and Information Canada. It is the first under a new program which calls for a completely new edition every ten years to coincide with the census and to cover the census decade. Previous editions were published in 1906, 1915 and 1957.

The National Atlas is not a gazetteer, devoted to names and locations of places and other geographical features. It is a collection of over 300 maps, graphs and charts, all produced by the Department's Surveys and Mapping Branch to provide a full geography of Canada in physical, economic historical and cultural terms.

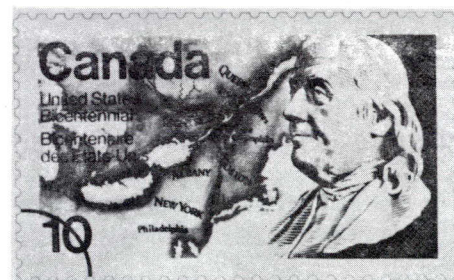
Twin stamps for U.S. Bicentennial

In celebration of the United States Bicentennial, the Canada Post Office and the United States Postal Service have issued simultaneously stamps of a common design featuring Benjamin Franklin, a postmaster general in British North America and a founding father of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin, born in Boston in 1706, contributed to the Canadian postal system by opening post offices in Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City. The system used the existing road between Montreal and Quebec City. The road was already equipped with post houses at nine-mile intervals. Franklin also established a courier service between Montreal and New York City. The service ran *via* Lake Champlain and the Hudson River and operated twice monthly in summer and once monthly in winter, linking Canada to the mail packet sailing between New York and England. Indeed, until 1788 all letters from central Canada to Halifax, Nova Scotia, travelled

through New York.

When the American War of Independence broke out, Franklin sided with the revolutionaries. They had captured Montreal and were besieging Quebec. Early in 1776, Congress sent Franklin north to proclaim the gospel of liberty. Franklin, however, had been in Montreal but a few days when the British navy arrived in Quebec. The Americans retreated and Franklin departed. Congress then despatched him to Paris. He arrived safely and used his great popularity and prestige to whip up French support for the revolution. Franklin participated in the peace negotiations, at one point hinting that Britain should donate Canada to the United States. After the war he returned to Philadelphia, where he died in 1790.



Stamps have same design

The two new stamps, which bear a common design and engraving, differ only in colour, typography and method of printing. The Canadian stamp will be printed by steel and gravure, the American stamp by steel and lithography. This is the first joint issue between Canada and the United States since the St. Lawrence Seaway stamps of 1959.

Bernard Reilander of Ottawa designed the United States Bicentennial stamp. It features a portrait of Franklin in brown placed against a blue and ochre background map. The portrait was derived from a marble portrait head by an anonymous Italian sculptor based on a terracotta bust of Franklin modelled in 1777 by the French sculptor Jean-Jacques Caffiéri. The background is an adaptation of an early engraved map of British North America published in 1776 by R. Sayer and J. Bennett in London, England. The places on the map are all important to early postal history in North America and include the three Canadian post offices established by Franklin.

Canadians and the earthquake in Italy

Captain Robert (Buck) McBride of Calgary, Alberta, was killed and Sergeant Robert Abar and Captain Raymond Massey injured, when their helicopter crashed into a cable-car pylon flying over Italy's earthquake-struck area last month. They were part of a Canadian Armed Forces group from Lahr, Germany, which had come to help in the earthquake relief effort.

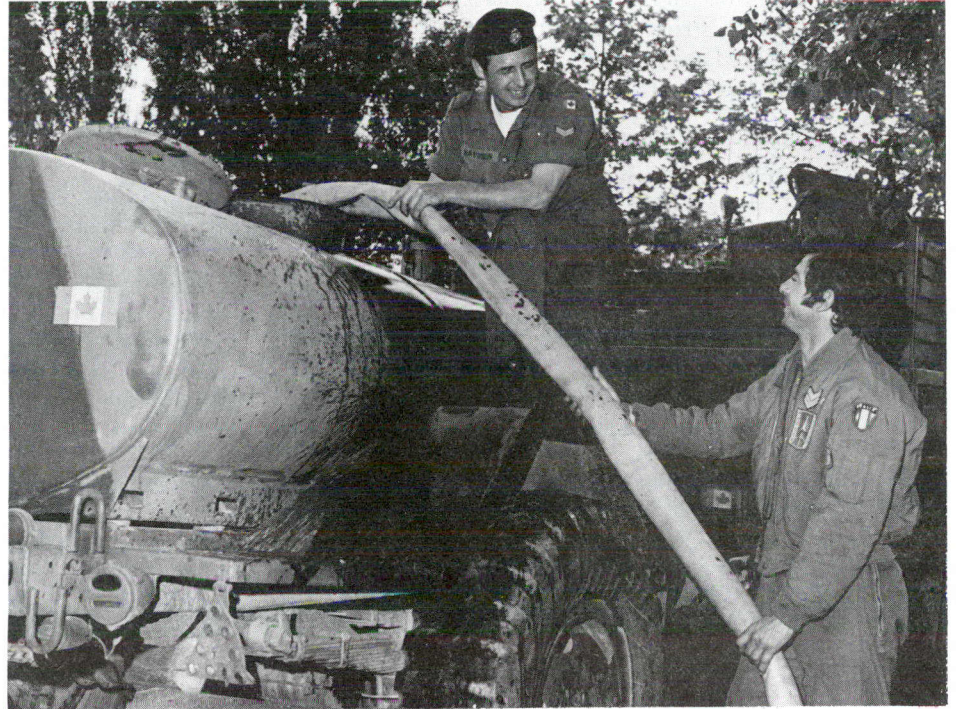
Canadian Forces personnel had been dispatched by air to the scene of the disaster, landing at Rivolto military airport. They were followed by a road convoy that drove about 460 miles to Venzone. The group — about 280-strong — was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Laliberté.

The troops provided manpower assistance, engineering expertise, medical equipment and a mobile water-purification system — which proved invaluable — all used in co-operation with local communities. Rain, which later deluged the stricken area, washed away part of the water-purification system and it was repaired under the guidance of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Moore, an engineer, who replaced Lieutenant-Colonel Laliberté.



The town of Venzone, one of the Italian communities devastated recently by severe earthquakes in the country's northern region. Some 280

Canadian Forces Corporal Al Davidson (left), and Italian Forces Sergeant Maraglino Domenico refill water-trailer during 'quake relief operations in



Many of the injured were referred to the Canadian camp by an Italian doctor from Proviono, where the medical clinic was considered unsafe. About

Udine, Italy. Corporal Davidson is a member of Canadian contingent dispatched to the stricken area on request of the Italian Government.

50 soldiers of the Royal 22nd Regiment (the "Van Doos") set up a tent hospital at San Daniele, which housed about 80 patients. Later they installed wiring, lighting etc. in a building nearby that was converted into a more permanent hospital. In Carnia, they brought lighting and power to a refugee camp.

Canadian Forces personnel also acted as cooks in one of the local communities. Using Italian food, under the guidance of an Italian cook, they prepared food for some 450 people *per* meal. At press time, the Canadians were still working in the area.

In Ottawa, the Prime Minister said the Government would provide \$1 million towards assistance for the earthquake victims and Immigration Minister Robert Andras said high priority was being given to immigration applications from the stricken area of Northern Italy.

In Toronto, organizers of private funds had collected some \$700,000 and were aiming at \$1 million. There are an estimated 60,000 persons in Canada who have relatives in the area — about 1,000 of whom have taken advantage of the free flights by CP Air and Alitalia to return there to help.

members of the Canadian Forces from Lahr, West Germany, were dispatched by air and road to the earthquake area to help in relief operations.

Federal activities in support of the 1976 Olympic Games

Treasury Board issued the following background paper on May 10:

In February 1973, Prime Minister Trudeau enunciated the Federal Government's policy on the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

"More than four years ago, this Government has clearly defined its position, namely that we would not make any special financial contribution to these Games. In letters dating as far back as 1968 and since then, on the occasion of numerous public statements, Mayor Jean Drapeau has indicated that besides certain current federal-provincial programs, no financing was required on the part of the Federal Government.

"While the organization of the Games is the responsibility of the City of Montreal, the Federal Government has taken an interest in them by reason, on the one hand, of the international character of the undertaking and, on the other hand, of financing methods considered by the City of Montreal and the Olympic Games Organization Committee (COJO)."

The Prime Minister made it clear there would be additional federal costs incurred because of requirements on government services generated by the Games.

The Government committed itself to major involvement in the areas of security and customs and immigration. Personnel from the RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces and Customs and Immigration were advised by the Prime Minister that they would be involved in the protection of participants and spectators.

Further costs were anticipated by the Prime Minister should the CBC assume the role (as it has) of "host broadcaster".

Legislation — Bill C-196

On June 28, 1973, C.M. Drury, then President of the Treasury Board, introduced the Olympic (1976) Act concerning special issues of Olympic stamps and coins, and the creation of the Olympic lottery.

Parliament was asked to approve the issuance of \$5- and \$10-silver coins to commemorate the Games. "The coins are intended for sale to collec-

tors and not for general circulation," Mr. Drury said. "Production costs, as well as distribution and promotion costs, will be charged against gross proceeds from coin sales with the net proceeds going to COJO."

The Government also proposed to issue special postage stamps and postal-related products beginning late in 1973, with additional issues in 1974, 1975 and 1976. Again net proceeds from their sale would be turned over to COJO.

Mr. Drury assured Parliament that "the production and marketing of Olympic coins, stamps and postal-related products are intended to generate revenue for the financing of the 1976 Summer Olympic Games, at no expense to the Federal Government, since all costs will be recovered".

Regarding COJO's request to operate a lottery, Mr. Drury said the proposal under consideration stipulated that the lottery could operate only in provinces which would give their approval and over periods of time determined by those provinces.

Bill C-196, adopted by the House of Commons and promulgated in July 1973, also proposed that donations to COJO by individuals and corporations be tax deductible.

Bill C-63

On June 20, 1975, amendments to the Olympic (1976) Act proposing the issuance of \$100-gold coins commemorating the Olympic Games were put before Parliament. The bill, passed by the House of Commons and promulgated in July 1975, also sought to give COJO proprietary rights in trademarks and copyrights.

The production and marketing of the gold coins are basically subject to the same conditions as the stamps and silver coins.

As a result of financing programs made possible by federal legislation, COJO expects to net \$360 million in revenues — \$225 million from Olympic lotteries, \$125 million from gold and silver coins and \$10 million from stamps.

Expenditures for the involvement of some 35 Federal Government departments and agencies necessary to meet

requirements generated by the Olympics are estimated at \$155 million. About \$28 million of this amount had been spent by the end of February 1976. The main areas are: security, influx of visitors, manpower, protocol, host broadcaster, staging of Games, officials, facilities, mail, promotion, cultural program, co-ordination.

In a speech to Parliament, June 20, 1975, Mr. Drury, speaking on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board, also announced a program to assist Canadian athletes.

"The Federal Government, through the Department of Health and Welfare, has increased the amount of assistance that has been available to Canadian athletes either through grants to national sports-governing bodies or *via* the student-scholarship program," he said. "The level of this support now stands at close to \$2 million for this year."

The Minister also confirmed an \$800,000-project to provide a breakwater and deepen the harbour at Kingston, Ontario for the Olympic sailing events, which has now been completed at a total cost of \$628,000.

Winnipeg Mint inaugurated

The Winnipeg Mint, a branch of the Royal Canadian Mint, was officially inaugurated on April 30, when Jean-Pierre Goyer, Minister of Supply and Services unveiled a commemorative plaque before representatives of the public and local, national and international guests. Canada now has three mints, the other two in Ottawa and in Hull, Quebec.

Yvon Gariépy Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, who welcomed guests to the inauguration ceremony, said that, with the additional manufacturing capacity of the Winnipeg Mint, new foreign markets were being sought. Canada is one of several countries with mints that compete on the export market.

Visitors to the Winnipeg Mint enter at the base of a 110-foot high glass tower. The reception area on the main floor of the tower, designed as an interior courtyard, houses hundreds of plants, a fountain, and ponds containing gold fish. An interpretive area on the same level has displays of coins and information on the minting process.

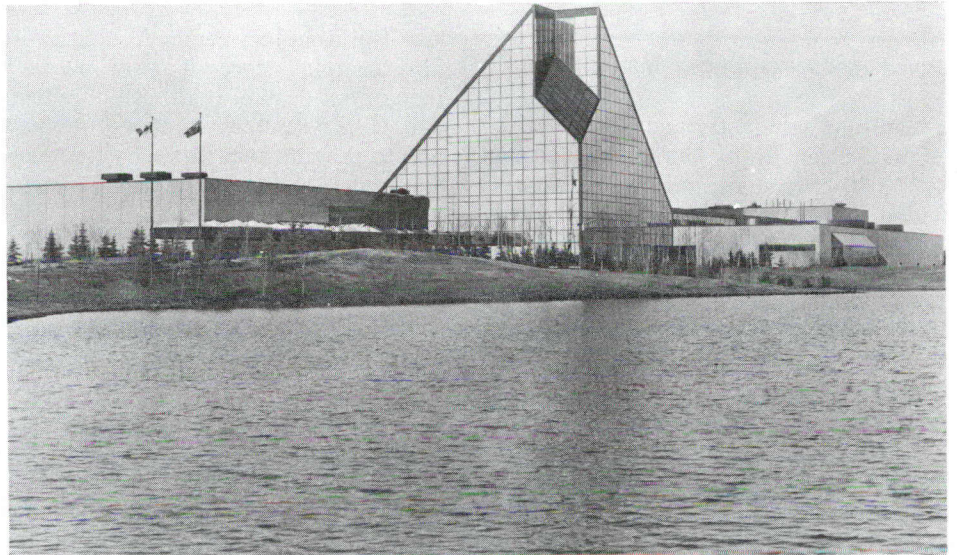
The tower's second floor features a 50-seat theatre, where visitors can see a ten-minute film on mint production. From the theatre, guides lead the visitors along the glassed-in viewing galleries, where they can see the complete minting process.

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.

Solar energy meeting in Manitoba

Manitoba's Industry and Commerce Minister Len Evans has announced that a \$5,000-provincial grant will be provided to help finance a conference on solar technology to be held in Winnipeg August 15 to 20.

The conference, sponsored by the American section of the International Solar Energy Society and the Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc., is expected to attract about 2,000 delegates who will discuss the use of solar energy to meet a variety of energy requirements.

Entitled, "Sharing the Sun", the conference will focus on such matters as solar heating and cooling of buildings, solar thermal stations and furnaces, the use of ocean tides and winds as energy sources and the prospects for storing thermal, electric, chemical and mechanical energy.

Mr. Evans, who is chairman of the Manitoba Energy Council, noted that the province relies on imported non-renewable fossil fuels for 84 per cent of its energy requirements.

"With the depletion of these reserves and their increasing costs, it is important to consider alternative sources of energy, particularly renewable sources of which solar energy — both direct and indirect — is the most important," he said.

It had been estimated, said Mr. Evans, that direct solar energy — about 2,300 hours of bright sunshine annually — is capable of generating 153 watts for every square meter of Manitoba. The use of indirect solar energy, in the form of biomass (vegetable matter transformed into energy resources), also offers Manitoba a significant energy alternative to fossil fuels.

He noted that the province's Legisla-

tive Building had been selected as a site for solar energy experiments to focus greater public attention on the use of this alternative energy resource and to provide technicians with reliable data on which to base projec-

tions for future years.

Conference participants will have an opportunity to see solar energy equipment in operation on a parking lot immediately south of the Convention Centre.

News briefs

■ The executive of the 2.3-million member Canadian Labour Congress was given a strong mandate at their convention on May 17 to call a general strike if such action is considered necessary to end wage and price controls.

■ An increase in the price of bread of at least 2 cents a loaf is expected in June. Current prices range from about 49 cents to 57 cents a loaf.

■ After a slow time in 1975, air cargo shipments are beginning to turn and are running well ahead of those in the corresponding period last year. Traditionally, air cargo has been regarded as one of the main indicators to trends in the airline industry.

■ Personal savings of Canadians at chartered banks have doubled since the end of 1970, says the Canadian Bankers' Association.

■ The province of Saskatchewan is undertaking studies for a 252-megawatt hydro-electric power project on the Saskatchewan River at Nipawin, 70 miles east of Prince Albert.

■ Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney was in Japan, China and other Pacific Rim countries in May seeking trading opportunities for potash, rapeseed, rapeseed meal, breeding cattle and other livestock.

■ Canadian diplomat Gordon G. Crean died in London, England, recently at the age of 62. He was to have become the first non-military commandant of the National Defence College, Kingston, Ontario, in September.

■ A consortium of Canadian, U.S. and Japanese interests proposes to build and operate a huge benzene plant near Edmonton. The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board will hold public hearings June 15 to determine whether to grant an industrial permit for the \$255-million project. If approval is given, construction could begin late in 1977 and the plant could be in full production by late 1979.

■ An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale, rumbled through an area south of Vancouver on May 16 at 4.35 in the morning. While no damage or serious injuries were reported, some apartment-dwellers in Vancouver had windows broken and people in the White Rock area reported cracked walls. The 'quake's epicentre was located just northeast of Pendar Island, immediately south of Vancouver in the Georgia Strait.

■ The price of cigarettes in most vending machines went up in the province of Manitoba on May 17 to \$1 for 25.

■ Conrad Bain, Canadian-born actor, who plays Dr. Arthur Harmon in the *Maud* television series, was in Toronto recently for a show. His home town is Lethbridge, Alberta and he first started acting under the direction of Dr. Betty Mitchell when attending high school in Calgary.

■ Canadians were among the winners of Emmy Awards — television prizes — at the twenty-eighth annual show in Los Angeles, California on May 19: Susan Clark of Toronto was chosen best lead actress for her portrayal in *Babe*; Daniel Petrie of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, was named best director for *Eleanor and Franklin*; and Ralph Mellanby of Toronto, producer of *Hockey Night in Canada*, won an Emmy for sports directorial excellence. Lorne Michaels, producer, won his award for *Saturday Night*, which he had tried unsuccessfully to put on in Canada before taking it to New York.

■ Canadian manufacturers produced 6,497,005 phonograph records in March, up from 5,022,883 in March last year. Production of pre-recorded tapes increased to 1,436,061 from 1,084,027 in March 1975.

■ Reg Leach of the Philadelphia Flyers won the Conn Smythe trophy as the most valuable player in the National Hockey League playoffs, scoring a record number of 19 goals and earning 24 points. He scored a total of 80 goals during the season.

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