

# Canada Weekly

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## Canada's household appliances featured at Domotechnica '84

Canada's expertise in the household appliance industry will be demonstrated at Domotechnica '84, the world's largest household appliance trade fair, to be held in Cologne, West Germany, February 8-11.

In both sales and technological innovations, the appliance industry has been one of Canada's fastest growing industries.

Striving to meet the rapidly changing demands of the Canadian market, companies concentrated first on producing major appliances for the kitchen, the most popular being the refrigerator and the stove. Following the post-Second World War economic boom, these were produced in large quantities and were the first electrical appliances to be found in most Canadian homes.

When the demand for these appliances was met, the industry started modifying and improving them. Between 1953 and 1968 when the number of Canadian households doubled, the industry handled the unprecedented demand with a complete range of technically-advanced appliances. The increasing number of house-

holds, caused mainly by the "baby boom" of the 1950s, also created a new demand for non-essential comfort products to help Canadians enjoy their leisure time. These "comfort" appliances have generated one of the most important sections of the Canadian appliance industry.

By 1974, more than three million major appliances were being sold annually in Canada. In 1978, sales reached \$1.5 billion. Refrigerators are still the biggest seller, with washing machines, ranges, freezers, dryers, microwave ovens, dishwashers and room air-conditioners following close behind.

During the 1970s, Canadian appliance manufacturers took to the export market as an additional source of revenue. They quickly became competitive on the world market and today the industry now exports more than \$60 million worth of appliances each year.

### Kitchen products

The "core" kitchen products such as refrigerators and ranges have the highest saturation points. In fact, refrigerators have already passed their saturation level, with some Canadian householders owning more than one.

On the other hand, freezers have achieved a saturation point of only slightly over 50 per cent due largely to the space limitations of many houses, especially apartment buildings. Recognizing this, Canadian manufacturers are reducing the size of their freezing units so they can offer smaller capacity freezers for urban consumers.

Between 1977 and 1982, microwave ovens had the highest growth rate of any Canadian appliance. Reasons for this dramatic rise in popularity include the time-saving feature and the fact that these ovens use approximately 25 per cent less energy than conventional ovens. Over the next five years, it is expected that sales of microwave ovens will double.

Laundry products, such as clothes washers and dryers, can be divided into



*Frost-free refrigerator, made by Inglis Limited, includes easy roll wheels and magnetic door seals.*



External Affairs Canada  
Affaires extérieures Canada

two types: automatic and wringer-twin tub washers, and electric and gas dryers. Washers and dryers have never had as high a saturation point as kitchen products, partly because apartment dwellers often share laundry facilities. Multi-speed washers comprise more than 80 per cent of the Canadian clothes washer market, while automatic dryers outsell timer dryers by two to one.

### Comfort products

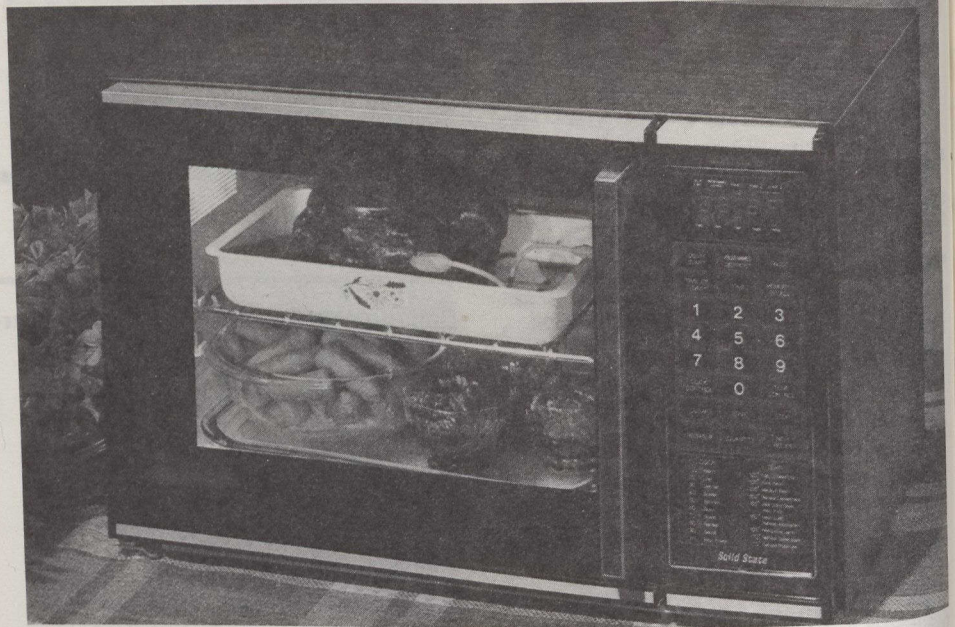
Comfort products, such as dishwashers and air conditioners, represent the highest growth rate.

Recent dishwasher innovations include solid state controls and energy-saving features. Energy efficiency has also made room air conditioners popular. Unlike central air conditioning, which consumes energy by cooling the entire house, room air conditioners only cool the rooms selected.

Canadian appliance manufacturers are adapting their products to meet the demands of a changing market. There are now more two-income families, there is more disposable income, and people are concerned about how to get the most out of their leisure hours.

To this end, the most time-saving of the comfort appliances, the microwave oven eliminates many hours spent in the kitchen. Dishwashers too are time-savers and many of the newer ranges offer a time-saving feature, the pyrolytic self-cleaning oven.

Other time-saving household appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, will be on display as well as an assortment of portable home appliances, including food processors, blenders, mixers and electric griddles.



Microwave ovens show dramatic savings in both time and energy.



General Signal Appliances' four-speed mixer is easily converted to a hand mixer.



Toastess Inc.'s automatic griddle with non-stick surface can double as a warming tray.

The companies represented at Domotechnica '84 in Cologne, West Germany, February 8-11, are:

Apollo Vacuum Corporation, 1145 Bellamy Road, Unit 14, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1H 1H5.

Biotech Electronique Ltée/Biotech Electronics Ltd., 715, ave. Halpern, Dorval (Québec) Canada H9P 1G5.

Budd Vacuum Company, 29 Vintage Lane, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada L3T 1X7.

Camco Inc., 185 Wright Avenue, Weston, Ontario, Canada M9N 1E7.

FCJ Marketing and Manufacturing Ltd., Suite 700, 27 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 2M6.

Frigidaire (a Division of WCI Canada Limited), 200 Ronson Drive, Suite 301, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada M9W 5Z9.

Inglis Limited, 1901 Minnesota Court, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5N 3A7.

General Signal Appliances, P.O. Box 1004, Welland, Ontario, Canada L3B 5S1.

Toastess Inc., 815, rue Tecumseh, Pointe-Claire (Quebec) Canada H9R 4B1.

Wesston Appliances (a Division of Algonquin Mercantile Corporation), 857 Fenmar Drive, Weston, Ontario, Canada M9L 2W4.

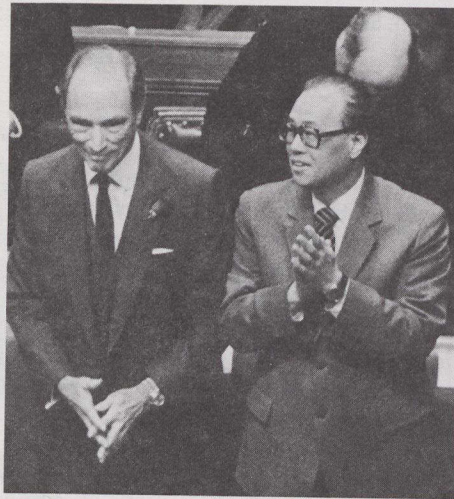
For further information please contact: Canadian Consulate General, Inmermannstrasse 3, D-4000 Dusseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany.

## Visiting Chinese Premier applauds Prime Minister's peace initiatives

China's Premier Zhao Ziyang, the highest-ranking Chinese official to come to Canada arrived in Ottawa January 16 for a seven-day visit. He was welcomed at Ottawa International Airport by a Canadian delegation led by External Relations Minister Jean Luc Pepin. In a brief statement, Mr. Zhao offered "friendship and peace", as a 21-gun salute was heard.

The next day, referred to by Prime Minister Trudeau as a "unique and momentous occasion", Premier Zhao addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Commons, the first Communist leader to do so. He began by offering support of Mr. Trudeau's peace initiatives. "We appreciate the efforts made by Prime Minister Trudeau to safeguard world peace, relax international tension and promote nuclear disarmament," said Mr. Zhao. "We support his appeal for the participation of more political leaders in the cause of safeguarding world peace. We would like to continue consultations with Canadian leaders on these issues."

Premier Zhao went on to review relations between China and the United States, stating that "fairly big progress" had been made since the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relations. "However," he added, "the main obstacle is the question of Taiwan. During my visit to the



*Premier Zhao Ziyang applauds Prime Minister Trudeau's introduction before addressing a joint session of Parliament.*

United States I held friendly, candid and serious talks with President Reagan and other leaders of the US government. The American side once again affirmed the above principles. We hope that the two sides will work together, strictly abide by the mutually agreed principles in their action and truly fulfil commitments already made, so that Sino-US relations may take the path of steady development."

The Premier also expressed optimism for the outcome of Sino-British negotiation over the future of Hong Kong. He stated that, in 1997, it will become a special administrative region of China administered by the Hong Kong people, while maintaining its financial independence and its status as a free port and international financial centre.

Speaking about the present state of Sino-Soviet relations, Premier Zhao said that these did not enhance world peace, and normal relations could begin only when the Soviet Union stopped supporting Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia and withdraws its troops from China's northern border. In three rounds of discussions, he said, Soviet representatives had refused to consider those concerns.

Mr. Zhao also emphasized that China would focus in the next ten years on energy, transportation and communications to modernize its economic system and would be looking for advance technology and equipment from other countries.

The Chinese Premier held extensive talks with Prime Minister Trudeau and members of his Cabinet, concentrating

largely on international questions and bilateral issues, including discussions on expanded Canadian exports to China. Canadian participation in up to ten major projects in China and possible Chinese investment in Canada's pulp and paper, potash, timber and sulphur industries were also discussed.

Premier Zhao concluded his stay in Ottawa on January 19, leaving for visits to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, where he met with provincial authorities and leaders of local Chinese communities. He also met with Premier Lévesque of Quebec and Premier Bennett of British Columbia, both of whom were invited to visit China.

While in Vancouver, Premier Zhao announced that China would participate in Expo 86 (the World Transportation Exposition) to be held from May to October 1986 in Vancouver.

## Agreements signed with China

During Premier Zhao's visit to Toronto, Spar Aerospace Ltd. signed a contract worth more than \$20 million to provide 26 satellite earth stations plus telecommunications equipment and technology to China.

Larry Clarke, chairman of Spar, said the company hopes for follow-up orders because the contract represents the first step in the development of a full domestic satellite communications system in China. Joint ventures and joint marketing of other high-technology equipment could also follow.

Chinese engineers will train at the Spar satellite communications equipment plant in Montreal, and Spar engineers will help the Chinese set up equipment manufacturing, test and assembly operations in China.

Spar has sold similar satellite communications systems to Brazil and has proposed another system for Nigeria.

A bilateral Foreign Investment Insurance Agreement between Canada and China was also signed during the Chinese Premier's visit. Tied directly to the Export Development Corporation's Foreign Investment Insurance Program, the agreement is designed to foster increased trade and investment to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Canada has signed 34 similar agreements with countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific. Negotiations continue with 18 other nations.



Canapress photos

*Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (right) greets Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang as he enters the House of Commons.*

## The great John A. — a practical dreamer who built a nation

The following is the conclusion of the article on Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, which was published in the past two issues and reprinted from the July/August issue of *The Royal Bank Letter*.

One oft-cited instance of Macdonald's lack of principle was his tricky manoeuvre to overthrow George Brown in 1858 in what was known as the "double shuffle". But it must be said that if Macdonald had been more rigid in his principles, the continental nation of Canada might not now exist. It called for a great deal of political flexibility and adroitness to hold the union together. Macdonald was a man for his times.

But it was the dogmatic Brown who finally bent when the sectional and factional stresses became insupportable. He agreed to join Macdonald and Cartier in a coalition to seek a federation of the British North American colonies as the only alternative to the dissolution of the partnership between the present Ontario and Quebec. If this was a generous gesture on Brown's part, so too was it on Macdonald's. Brown was probably the only man he really hated, and the feeling was certainly mutual. Brown's Toronto newspaper, *The Globe*, never missed a chance to blacken Macdonald's character, running a "sick notice" every time he went on one of his notorious benders. Macdonald riposted that he knew the voters preferred him drunk to George Brown sober.

### Drafted most of BNA Act

It is a fair assumption that Confederation

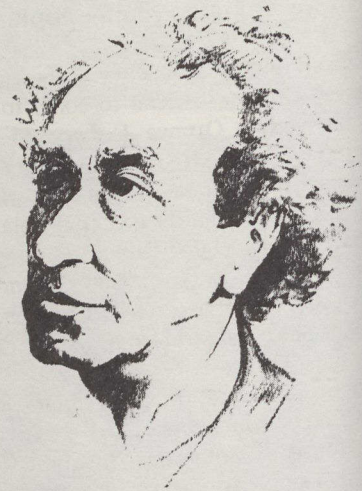
could never have come about without Macdonald's free-and-easy personality and his peculiar mixture of talents. Glass in hand, he charmed the Maritime leaders into feeling that they were joining in an association of good fellows. With his keen grasp of constitutional law, he personally drafted 50 of the 72 resolutions which were to form the backbone of the British North America Act.

Few Canadians today realize how close we came to never having a nation. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick bridled and hesitated throughout the negotiations, while Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland turned their backs entirely on the scheme. The ink was hardly dry on the BNA Act before Nova Scotia wanted to revert to its former status as a self-governing colony. Canada's security was placed in jeopardy by the bullying stance of the United States and the invasions by the Irish-American Fenian movement. When the Dominion took over the vast North West from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, it faced a ready-made insurrection led by Louis Riel.

As Canada's first prime minister, Macdonald grimly and almost single-handedly held the nation together. But he refused to go on the defensive; everything in his experience told him that it would be folly to stand still. Instead his government took the bold step of



The Fathers of Confederation meet in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in 1864. As a result of these discussions, the four provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia became a nation in 1867 with Macdonald as first prime minister.



promising to build a railway to British Columbia as a condition of that colony's joining Confederation.

### Thrown out of office

It was also very nearly Macdonald's undoing. He was caught red-handed appealing for campaign funds in the 1872 election from the man who stood to gain most from the railway franchise. For that he was thrown out of office, but his bitterest enemy could not dispute what he said in his own defence against charges of corruption: "...There does not exist in Canada a man who has given more of his heart, more of his wealth, more of his intellect and power, such as they may be, for the good of this Dominion of Canada."

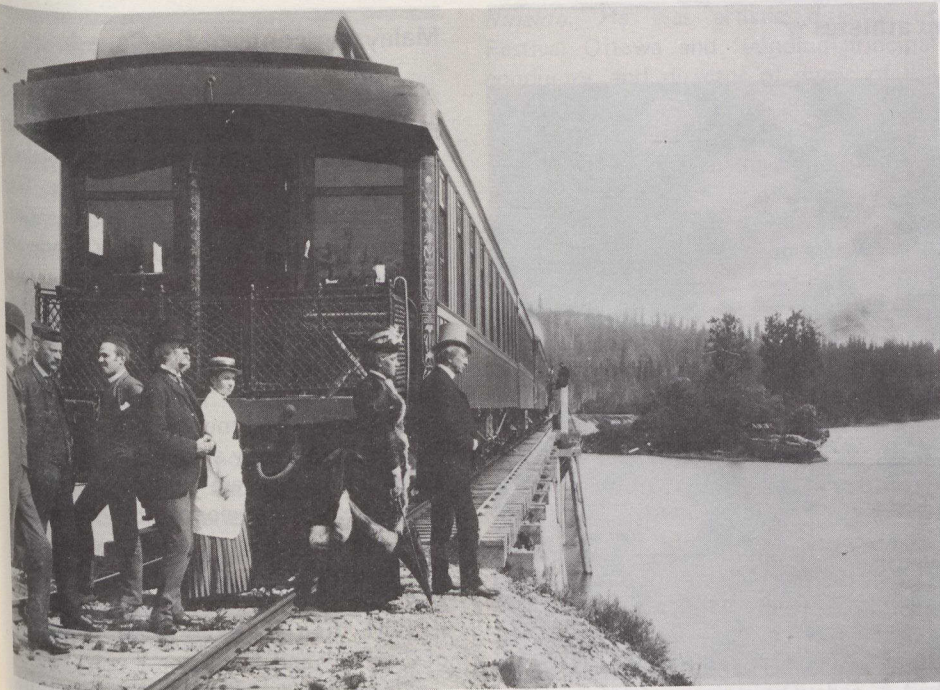
It was true. His absences on political duty had precipitated the bankruptcy of his law firm, leaving him with enormous debts. He had tried to resign from office several times, only to be talked into staying on for the good of the country. He had continued to serve despite the trials and sorrows of his home life; the only child of his second marriage, Mary, suffered from a congenital defect and was permanently confined to a wheelchair.

### Railway brings him back

He might have faded from the scene then if the new government had not challenged his vision of nationhood. It clearly had no intention of completing the railway on schedule, and British Columbia was threatening to secede. Aroused, the old warrior drew on his deep reserves of will to — as he saw it — save Confederation. He took his message directly to the people in town meetings and picnics. Within five years he was back in office; determined that, against all obstacles, an all-Canadian railway would be built to the West Coast.

PAC, C-7299

# ews of the arts



Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald at Stave River, British Columbia. All his life he pursued a dream of a continental nation bound together by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In his new government Macdonald doubled as Prime Minister and Minister of Indian Affairs, and there is clear evidence that in the latter capacity he neglected his duties. The procrastination which had earned him the nickname "Old Tomorrow" reaped a bloody harvest in the

1885 uprising led by Louis Riel, leader of the Métis (Indians of French extraction). Macdonald refused to save Riel from the gallows, despite his evident insanity, preferring to stand by the court's decision. Riel's execution rekindled all the old racial animosities. For the next few

years Macdonald was caught in a cross-fire between extremists in English Canada and Quebec.

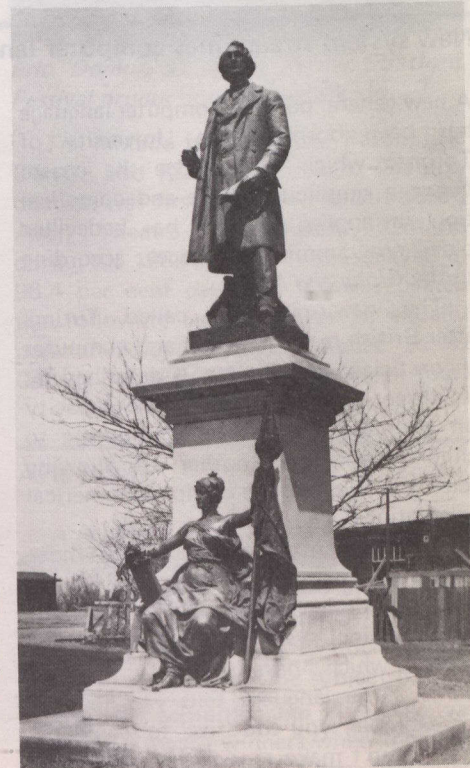
In the meantime he pursued his great dream of a continental nation bound together by the Canadian Pacific Railway which would be protected militarily by its alliance with Britain and economically by his "national policy" of tariffs.

He fought his last election against the opposition platform of commercial union with the United States. He won, but the hard campaigning took its toll on his frail 76-year-old constitution. When he died of a stroke on June 6, 1891, there was an outpouring of sorrow among Canadians everywhere. He had said of himself that no man had ever loved a country more than he loved Canada. And no Canadian politician was ever loved more in return.

He was, as even his enemies admitted, indispensable. Four consecutive Conservative prime ministers tried to carry on his work and failed. Even today, almost a century after his death, the essential tone of moderation which Macdonald set for Canadian affairs is still with us. A voice once called out during an election rally: "You'll never die, John A.!" In the sense that his generous and reasonable spirit lives on among his countrymen, he never did.



The funeral procession of Sir John A. Macdonald moving from the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Sir John A. died of a stroke on June 6, 1891. In his own defence against charges of corruption, he said "...There does not exist in Canada a man who has given more of his heart, more of his wealth, more of his intellect and power, such as they may be, for the good of this Dominion of Canada."



Sir John A. Macdonald monument at the eastern entrance of House of Commons in Ottawa.

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## Sports Federation of Canada honours top athletes

Wayne Gretzky, the National Hockey League's top player and Carling Bassett, the rising teen-age tennis star, have been named Canada's male and female athlete of the year by the Sports Federation of Canada.

Wayne Gretzky, the scoring wizard of the Edmonton Oilers, was the recipient of the Lionel Conacher award as the top male athlete for a record fourth consecutive year in voting conducted by the *Canadian Press* among sports writers and broadcasters across the country.

Carling Bassett, 16, who reached the quarter finals at Wimbledon last year, is the first female tennis player to receive the Bobbie Rosenfeld award, named in honour of Canada's female athlete of the half-century.

Amateur athletes were also honoured by the Sports Federation. Speed skater Louis Grenier and modern pentathlete Lynn Chyrbobrywy were named the federation's male and female amateur athletes of the year.

Louis Grenier, 23, of Ste. Foy, Quebec, rebounded from an ankle injury to dominate every event he entered in 1983. At the world short-course (indoor) championships held last April in Japan, he won gold medals in the 1 000- and 3 000-metre events and set a world record in the 500 metres with a time of 45.37 seconds. Lynn Chyrbobrywy, 21, of Baie d'Urfé, Quebec, captured the world modern pentathlon championship in August 1983 at Gothenburg, Sweden over 47 athletes representing 15 countries.



Canapress

Carling Bassett named female athlete of the year.

## New system streamlines computer language

A new general purpose computer language has been born at the University of Toronto which may bridge the chasm between simplicity in use and complication in application that has bedevilled older programming languages, according to the *Globe and Mail*.

The new language, called Turing, after British mathematician and computer theoretician Alan Turing, is described by its three creators as having the capacity on one level of teaching computing to children and on another of allowing scientists to complete complex numerical calculations.

Of importance to programmers whose interests lie between those points, Turing has been designed to provide a kind of early-warning system of the errors or "bugs" which have sneaked into programs. "The language tells you that if, for example, you add 'five' to 'elephant' that doesn't make sense," says co-author Richard Holt, chairman of the University of Toronto's Computer Systems Research Group. Bugs in the software, some as

apparently trivial as dropping a comma or failing to close a bracket, have apparently caused space probes to misfire and were associated with failures aboard the first US space shuttle.

Turing, which was a year in the making and which is being tested by 3 000 University of Toronto computer science students, has another debugging advantage over widely-used languages such as the home computer buff's Basic and the professional's Fortran or Pascal; its precise programs are to be proved by mathematics.

Turing's authors, who include James Cordy and J.N.P. (Pat) Hume, say they started the new language because they were tired of having to patch together new pieces onto Pascal's 20-year framework. They say that besides being simple, the new language organizes information in pieces or "modules" which allows a user to complete its programs in sections. Changes in programs using older languages often created unforeseen and disastrous side effects.

## Malaysian contract for Canada

A \$143.7-million (US) financing agreement will support a sale of Canadian goods and services for the South Sabah pulp and paper project in Malaysia. The announcement was made on the occasion of the recent official visit to Canada of the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad.

The project, totalling \$324.5 million (US), will be built by a consortium led by Klockner-Stadler Hurter Ltd. (KSH) of Montreal. Klockner Industrie Anlagen GMBH of Germany and Voest-Alpine AG (Voest) of Austria are the other members.

An Export Development Corporation (EDC) loan supports the Canadian portion of the contract. The German and Austrian portions are receiving similar support from the export credit agencies of Germany and Austria.

The buyer is Sabah Forest Industries Sdn. Berhad, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The project, situated near Sipitang on the island of Borneo, will involve the construction and commissioning of a pulp and paper mill and associated facilities.

## Mineral industry up last year

The Canadian mineral industry had a return to sustained though moderate economic growth in 1983, it was announced recently by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. During the year, the value of mineral output increased by \$2.2 billion.

The total value of output of the four sections of the industry — metallics, non-metallics, structural materials and fuels — reached almost \$36 billion, compared with \$33.8 billion the previous year. The metallic sector, which showed a 20 per cent drop in 1982, reached \$7.2 billion in 1983, a 5.3 per cent increase. Output for non-metallics and structural materials totalled \$3.6 billion, down slightly from that of the previous year. The fuel sector, by far the largest of the four, totalled \$25 billion, an increase of 8 per cent over the 1982 level.

The ten leading minerals in 1983 were: petroleum, natural gas, natural gas by-products, copper, coal, gold, iron ore, zinc, nickel and cement. These represented 87 per cent of the total output of the industry, and all except natural gas, iron ore and cement showed increases over the previous year's figures.

## Tribute to Harold Town

Harold Town, one of Toronto's best-known artists, will be given a panoramic retrospective by the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in two years. To be organized by David Burnett, curator of contemporary Canadian art at the AGO, the exhibition will open in May 1986 and continue through June.

"Town has been a major figure on the Toronto scene for many years but the work has not been seen in substantial amounts," said Mr. Burnett. He added that the survey will contain between 150 and 200 paintings and works on paper drawn from all periods of the artist's career.

## Gift opera salutes the Met

*Rinaldo*, an opera first created and presented at Ottawa's National Arts Centre during "Festival Ottawa" in July 1982, opened in New York on January 19 as Canada's contribution to the one-hundredth anniversary season of the Metropolitan Opera.

National Arts Centre director general Donald MacSween says that the production, the first Handel opera ever presented at the Met, "is a centennial gift from the National Arts Centre, on behalf of the people of Canada, in appreciation of the many years during which Canadians have enjoyed opera from the Met — on tour, on radio and in New York". The gift is the loan of costumes, sets and props, as originally created for the National Arts Centre, to be used for the duration of the Met's 1984 season. Besides the 18 performances at the Met, they will also be used on tour, as well as at the Toronto International Festival in June 1984.

The Metropolitan Opera will remount the production with many of the original principal performers including Marilyn Horne, Benita Valente and Samuel Ramey. It will be conducted by Canada's Mario Bernardi, directed by Frank Corsaro, with set and costume design by Mark Negin and lighting by Gil Wechsler. Mario Bernardi makes his Metropolitan Opera debut with this presentation of



Mario Bernardi

Malak

*Rinaldo*. He was artistic director of Festival Ottawa and founding principal conductor and director of music of the National Arts Centre orchestra for 13 seasons. He also conducted *Rinaldo's* Ottawa premiere. Canadian designer Mark Negin and director Frank Corsaro are also making their debuts at the Metropolitan Opera with this production.

## New Quebec dictionary

Two linguists at Laval University in Quebec City are at work on a dictionary of French words used in Quebec either exclusively or with meanings that have been lost elsewhere. Words whose use and meaning are common to Quebec and other French-speaking parts of the world will not be included.

The dictionary will give the history and derivation of an estimated 100 000 words with a distinct meaning in Quebec. A first volume is expected to appear this year but the entire work may require up to ten volumes and several years to complete.

The authors, Marcel Juneau and Claude Poirier, have been at work for some years on what they call the *Trésor de la langue française au Québec* (*Treasury of the French language in Quebec*). They head a team of 15 including Lionel Boisvert and Claude Verreault who are close collaborators.

The undertaking is financed by the Quebec education ministry and by a branch of the Canada Council.

Linguists Juneau and Poirier have traced the origin of some Quebec words back to thirteenth century use in France and even earlier. A few Quebec French words exist nowhere else. There are others derived from English and some thought to be of English origin but prove to be French from which the English was taken.

The interest of the Laval researchers in the Quebec language began in 1972 when they published the account book of a Quebec miller active at the end of the seventeenth century.

They have gone on since then to their present project studying the vocabulary used in documents in archives, testaments, inventories of goods, the account books of religious communities, diaries of missionaries and early travellers, old issues of newspapers, early and contemporary writing of all kinds, recorded folk tales and songs and any kind of account in which a distinctive item of language may be found.

(Article from Canadian Scene.)

## Stratford's hit "The Mikado" opens at London's Old Vic

The highly-successful production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, produced for Canada's Stratford Festival, will be presented at the Old Vic theatre in London, England for six weeks beginning February 29.

Directed and choreographed by Brian Macdonald with musical direction by Berthold Carrière, the London engagement is made possible by donations from the Department of External Affairs, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and sponsorship by British divisions of several Canadian companies.



Robert C. Ragsdale

Eric Donkin as Ko-ko in the Stratford Festival production of *The Mikado*.

*The Mikado* features Marie Baron, Eric Donkin and Richard McMillan. The production was first presented at Stratford's Avon Theatre in Stratford, Ontario during the 1982 season where it played to 96.4 per cent capacity. It was repeated the following summer with an equally popular reception and travelled across Canada for a successful eight-week tour.

## Arts briefs

A National Film Board film *The War Story* directed by Ann Wheeler has won one of the top three prizes at the tenth International Film Festival in Flanders, Belgium. The prize was awarded for the best documentary on the subject of war.

Toronto composer Jim Pirie, 44, was among the award winners when the news and documentary Emmys were presented in New York recently. His winning score was for the ABC documentary, *Alaska: Story at the Top of the World*.

## Credit card speeds fill ups for commercial clients

Claude Essiambre tries out a new credit card system that allows a fill-up of gasoline in just 30 seconds. The card, when inserted, opens the pump and bills the purchase, showing how much gas was pumped, how much it cost and the date and time of purchase. Creditcard gas is only available from ten "card-lock" commercial gasoline stations operated by Chevron Canada Ltd. throughout British Columbia. So far Chevron operates the stations for commercial clients only. It is expected to be up to two years before the service is available for consumers other than commercial accounts.



Canapress

the sale is for western red spring wheat, but Egypt will take a minimum of 125 000 tonnes of soft white western wheat. Credit was offered at commercial rates and the loan was guaranteed by the federal government.

**Canadian General Electric (CGE)** is leaving the housewares business and Black and Decker is bidding to take over. The CGE plant in Barrie, Ontario and GE plants in Brazil, Mexico, Singapore and the United States are going as a package for a reported \$300 million (US). Group sales were estimated at \$470 million (US) for 1983. CGE's Barrie plant employs 600 and produces skillets, kettles, lawn mowers and heaters, all marketed internationally. The acquisition does not include CGE's audio-electronic line or major appliances and lighting products.

**The Soviet Union** is buying 32 Husky 8G tracked transport vehicles, spares and related parts from Foremost Industries, Calgary, Alberta. The vehicles will be used in gas pipeline work. The sale was supported by a \$14.025-million agreement with the Export Development Corp.

**For a baby** with a sense of occasion, Cheryl Moss has just the thing — a tuxedo bib, complete with bow tie. Mrs. Moss began sewing two-and-a-half years ago while expecting her third child. She started by producing a few appliquéd and quilted bibs that proved so popular her cottage industry soon was booming. Today Cheryl Moss runs a factory employing 14 part- and full-time staff to keep up with orders for the washable bibs with the Bib Lady tag. She has more than 500 accounts and sells her line in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, California and Hawaii.

## News briefs

**Housing starts** are expected to rise to 171 000 in 1984, from 160 000 in 1983, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing, based on continuing economic growth and a strong likelihood of mortgage rates dropping one or two points. Another boost for continued strength is the improvement in Registered Home Ownership Savings Plans, which now allow contributors who buy newly-built homes in 1984 to deduct \$10 000 from their taxable incomes, even though their contributions were below that level.

**Lumber output** is at a three-year high, according to the Canadian Lumbermen's Association. After three years of falling production and inventories, total lumber production rose in 1983 to about 18.5 billion FBM (thousand board feet). Growth in consumer demand for housing, furniture and renovation materials was responsible.

**Samanda Office Communications Ltd.** of Markham, Ontario is offering a line of products that turn an electronic typewriter into a word processor. The *Iris*, which includes a single-line, 40-character liquid crystal display, has many characteristics of a word processor when connected. The *Ivy* allows a typewriter to be used as an electronic mail unit; the

*Lily* converts a machine to a word-processing keyboard; the *Lilac* converts the typewriter into a printer for a computer or word processor. Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario designed and developed the *Iris* unit.

**Mayor Jean Drapeau** has been named a Commander of France's Legion of Honour. Jean Bellard, the French ambassador to Canada, will present the award in Ottawa in the spring. Mr. Drapeau is the fourth Quebecker to be named to the order which was created by Napoleon Bonaparte to honour military and civil merit. The others recipients are Quebec Premier René Lévesque, Jean Chapdelaine, the province's delegate to France in the 1960s, and Yves Michaud, the current delegate.

**Six Ontario firms** involved in the electronics and electricity fields took part in an Ontario trade exhibition held in Kuwait, January 15 to 19. The exhibit was sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the mission was lead by the Minister of Labour Russell H. Ramsay.

**Egypt** has agreed to purchase 625 000 tonnes of prairie wheat, worth about \$125 million at current prices. The sale is the largest that has been negotiated between the Canadian Wheat Board and the Egyptian government. The bulk of

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