

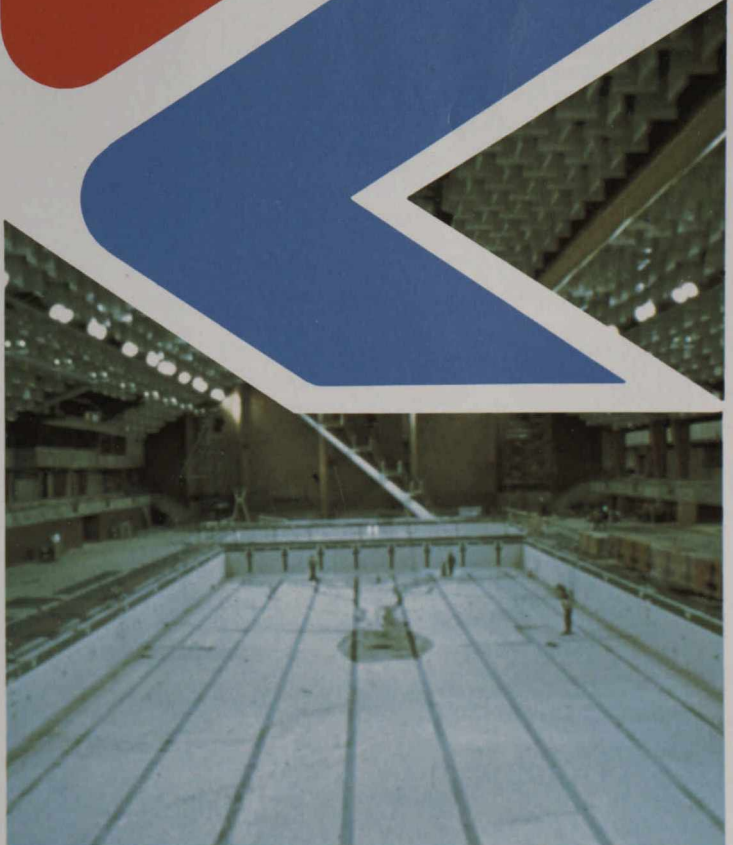
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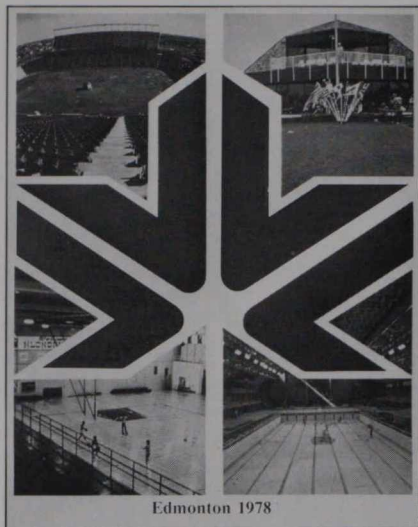


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Edmonton 1978

Cover shows the new stadium and athletic facilities in preparation for the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton this summer. See article on page 10.

Canada Today



Edmonton 1978

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What is happening to the economy

By W. L. Luetkens

Before facing his first winter visit to Canada, the author was very perturbed: should he take long underwear against the cold, he enquired. The answer was unexpected: "You can cope with the cold — but what will almost kill you is the intolerable heat indoors."

The story is revealing in several ways. It sheds light upon Canadian affluence, upon the profligate use of energy in a country where temperature and distances admittedly make it hard to economise; and upon the fierce winter, which is never far from people's thoughts. There is a theory that the trouble their ancestors had surviving amid ice and snow has caused Canadians to be ever-preoccupied with the problem of how to survive, and to exaggerate their difficulties as they arise.

Certainly, many economists in Canada believe that the fears now so freely expressed about the Canadian economy are greatly exaggerated. As we shall see, there is even some statistical evidence that the problem of Canada's external payments is less intractable than pretended. Talk of the "English disease" really misses the point, since in terms of GNP per head Canada comes very close to the top of the world league, and since, except for a brief setback in 1975, Canada has consistently run a surplus on its merchandise account since the early 1960s.

But there is no denying that the near-euphoria of the two or three years up to the middle of this decade has been dispelled. At that time Canada was profiting from a commodities boom that was going to make it grow rich from the sale of wheat and base metals. It was the only industrialised country in the world with an exportable surplus of energy. (Britain now is about to achieve something similar on the strength of North Sea oil.) Canadian oil and gas were going to insulate the country from the oil shock and provide a fat income from exports to the U.S. besides.

For a while things worked out as hoped for. Canada managed to avoid following the U.S. into recession in spite of the intimate ties between the two economies: about two thirds of Canada's foreign trade is done with the U.S., and foreign trade accounts for between a quarter and a fifth of Canadian gross national product. But then things began to go wrong. The original idea that Canada might keep down the domestic price of energy very soon proved illusory: sensibly domestic supplies were used to cushion the oil shock, allowing the price of oil to rise to world levels over several years.

It was found that Canadian self sufficiency in energy was not going to last for ever. Predictions of this sort have a way of being overtaken by events, but for what it is worth it is now thought that by the mid-1980s Canada will have ceased to be a net exporter of energy.

At the same time as the energy situation was found to be less rosy, the world commodities boom collapsed. Nickel smelters have had to close; plans to increase capacities to produce copper and other non-ferrous metals had to be stretched. Canadian dependence upon an outside world in recession was taking its toll.

Within the country that was not immediately apparent. While the U.S. was in recession, Canada was booming, and the boom was inflationary. By means of an expansionary fiscal policy, Canada appeared to be "spending its way out of trouble," as the phrase goes. It might have worked, if the U.S. and the world at large had come out of recession and gone into one of the strong booms that were characteristic of the 1960s and early 1970s. But it did not happen. World demand for Canadian raw materials remained relatively poor. Canadian manufactures became less competitive as wages rose in sympathy with the boom at the very time when U.S. wages were stagnating.

Period of growth

Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Finance Minister, summed it up in his budget speech on April 10, when he said: "It is now clear that many of our current difficulties have their roots in the period of extraordinary growth Canada experienced between the mid-1960s and the mid-1970s. With the great advantage of hindsight we can see that we did not always use our good fortune widely.

"Our economy boomed. The world environment was good to us. Canadians enjoyed a very large increase in their standard of living. But we all came to expect too much of the economy. The money supply was increased too fast.

"Too much was asked and given at the wage bargaining table. Other forms of income rose too rapidly. Too little attention was paid to the long run efficiency of the Canadian economy, and its ability to compete . . . World recession arrived and compounded our loss of competitiveness. A large deficit opened up in our balance of payments. Our growth slowed down. The loss of sales meant the loss of jobs."

In figures this meant that wage settlements were running at 17 per cent in 1975; that the merchandise account showed a sudden deficit of C\$534m. in 1975; that the current account deficit (which includes besides merchandise transactions invisibles such as foreign travel and the cost of servicing the Canadian debt) plunged from C\$1.5 bn in 1974 to C\$4.2 bn in 1977; and that the unemployment ratio climbed from 5.3 per cent in 1974 to above eight per cent now, which means that about one million people are unemployed.

The outside world became most aware of the sudden decline of the Canadian dollar. It began in November 1976, when the Parti Québécois Government was returned in Quebec, but in fact that was merely the signal to begin the retreat. Economic reality simply did not justify the rate of C\$1 = U.S.\$1.03 that had been reached in November 1973 at a time of huge current account deficits. Because of political uncertainties in Quebec and for other reasons, compensating imports of capital had passed their peak.

Not so stark

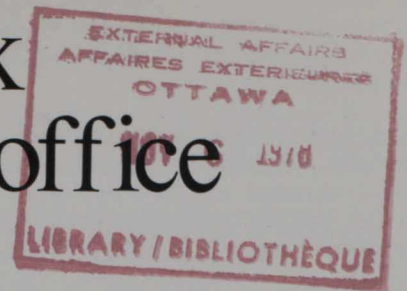
All of these are subjects that bear closer examination which will relieve the starkness of the picture without, however, dispelling the belief that the problems are severe. They could not be otherwise in a country that is heavily dependent upon the economic progress of others, and at a time when the competitors of Canadian manufacturers, especially in the U.S., are not fully employed and therefore eager to penetrate the Canadian market.

External Payments: It is important to remember that the merchandise deficit of 1975 has not been repeated. Helped by the slowing down of the Canadian economy and the fall of the Canadian dollar which made Canadian exports cheaper, the merchandise account produced a surplus of C\$3 bn in 1977, which may grow to C\$4 bn this year. But the Canadian appetite for foreign travel — especially the urge to escape from the winter to Florida, California, or Hawaii — plus debt service pushed the current account into a deficit of C\$4 bn annually. That is nothing spectacularly new: Canada traditionally imports capital to finance industrial development.

What is new is that an increasing portion of that imported capital is in the form of debt, rather than equity. Interest on debt has to be paid even in bad times, whereas dividends can be cut or even cut out.

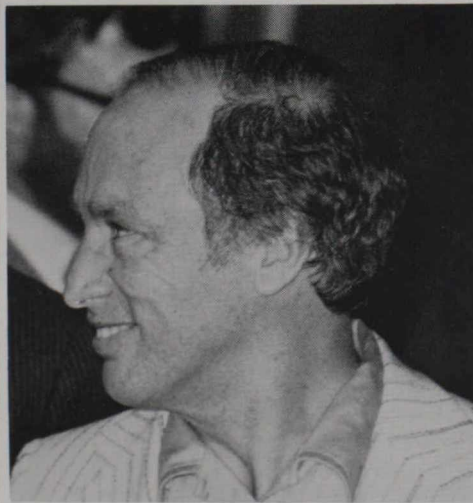
Even so, the Canadian provinces (either directly or through their utility companies) are traditionally heavy borrowers in Wall Street. That led into a paradoxical trap: as an anti-inflationary measure the provinces strove to balance budgets in 1975 and 1976, with the result that their borrowing fell off. It is at least partially true that the borrowing the Canadian Government did in New York

Looking back on 10 years in office



Mr. Pierre Trudeau's tenth anniversary in office, which fell at the end of April, was not marked — as some expected that it might be — by the announcement of a date for Canada's federal election. It was marked, or just slightly anticipated, by the publication of a new and thorough political biography in which the author, George Radwanski, reveals that Trudeau took steps towards resignation in the summer of 1976 — shortly before the provincial election victory of the Parti Québécois, which in effect reversed a dramatic slide in his political popularity.

He had got as far as laying down resignation procedure for his Cabinet: if the Cabinet as a whole reached a consensus that his resignation was desirable, it was to send him the message through two Ministers: Marc Lalonde and Donald Macdonald. "He knew that if the situation in the polls didn't start improving the Cabinet and the Party wouldn't stand by him out of any sentiment", an associate of the Prime Minister's is quoted as saying.



Mr. Trudeau . . . "complex, sensitive and self disciplined."

Trudeau's reaction to René Levesque's victory in the Quebec election restored his stock with the public and the Liberals, writes Radwanski; but it presented him with his greatest political challenge and "exacted a heavy personal price." It made him determined to remain in office, whatever the cost to his personal freedom, until the Quebec question was settled. At the same time, Trudeau himself feels that it may have helped to cause the ultimate destruction of his marriage.

He is quoted saying, "Margaret was very unhappy for the Levesque victory because she sort of instantly said, 'Now you're never going to be able to get out of politics' and she saw herself locked into this thing

for time indefinite. Until then, both she and I had sort of kept our options open."

George Radwanski, who is Ottawa editor of *The Financial Times*, was granted extraordinary access to Trudeau, his Ministers and aides for the purpose of writing the book: access that included eight hour-long interviews with Trudeau in person. In a foreword, he writes that Trudeau's co-operation was given with no strings attached and was apparently motivated by a desire "to be understood more clearly — for better or worse — as the sort of individual and leader he really is."

In an interview, Radwanski has said that Trudeau veered away from only one topic: a defence of his record as Prime Minister. "He hates self-justification." But he talked freely about his childhood and its attendant problems (as a child he was insecure and inclined to cry when he received either compliments or criticism); about the less attractive sides of his personality; about his problems in handling human relationships.

He was equally frank about his decision to invoke the controversial War Measures Act to deal with Quebec terrorists in 1970, arguing that it was never the dramatic production it was depicted to be. According to Radwanski, the only surprise the crisis produced for Trudeau was the number of people arrested under the Emergency Act: the police had presented the Cabinet with a list of 78 people they wanted to arrest, but then arrested 465. The Trudeau Government decided not to speak up once the arrests had been made, for fear of demoralizing the hard-pressed police force and adding to the general confusion, Radwanski reports.

The book, he says, is an attempt to come to grips with the real Trudeau. It traces his development through childhood, youth, and in politics. What emerges is a picture of a complex, bicultural man, inwardly sensitive, outwardly self-disciplined, hard, at times perverse and nasty.

Of Trudeau today, the author writes, "Discipline is now pursued a little less single-mindedly, he seems a shade more willing to leave himself emotionally vulnerable, and his assertions of independence are acted out less crudely. But those three elements — discipline, and the expectation of finding it in others — sensitivity, and the effort to camouflage it — and the determination to be always his own man — remain paramount."

Trudeau is published by Macmillan of Canada at C\$14.95.

this spring for external payments reasons was to Ottawa a matter of stepping in where the provinces had bowed out for reasons of financial rectitude.

A bond issue was made of C\$U.S.750m. and a standby arranged of C\$1.5 bn, subsequently increased to C\$2.5 bn, of which C\$950m. had been drawn upon at the time of writing.

It is noteworthy that the borrowing was well received in Wall Street, where borrowers are usually looked at very closely indeed before being given the top "AAA" rating. A few weeks later, at the end of April, Ottawa followed up with a large medium term loan from international banks, and a bond issue denominated in West German currency of DM1.5 bn.

In assessing Canadian creditworthiness, the lenders are sure to have looked at total Canadian external indebtedness. The interesting point there is that, expressed as a percentage of gross national product (the key measure for national economic performance), indebtedness has remained remarkably stable, and is in fact lower than it has been in the past. During the 1970s it has been hovering around 50 per cent, if direct investment is included. If Canadian external assets are deducted, then net external indebtedness is equivalent to around a quarter of GNP.

Reassuring though that may be, it does not make allowance for the gradual shift away from direct investment to straight borrowing. Besides, it raises the question as to how long the process can continue.

The Exchange rate: Official Canadian policy for long has been to let the Canadian dollar rise and fall with the market forces, except that day-to-day movements are to be smoothed out in the interest of ordinary market conditions. There really is no alternative, since the market forces would sweep away any effort to reverse their trend.

Spokesmen for the Progressive Conservative Party criticise the Government for encouraging panic by saying over and over again that the dollar is free to float, the last time in Mr. Chrétien's budget speech. In their view, the danger of a run on the currency could be reduced if a range were known within which the exchange rate was to be kept.

Employment: Canada always has been a country of high unemployment, partly because the statistics exaggerate the evil. They are compiled on a kind of poll basis, in which people are asked whether they are looking for employment. The eight per cent unemployment may have to be reduced by up to two percentage points to make it comparable with European statistics.

In addition to the statistical quirks, there are regional problems. A professor in Newfoundland (incidentally a socialist) once explained to the author, that unemployment there (currently close to 15 per cent) is at least partly rooted in traditional habits: "We



Oil refinery at Sarnia, Ontario '... as energy becomes more expensive, and with a world oil shortage forecast for the mid 1980's, oil, gas and hydro-electric power will provide economic strength and employment in Canada.'

used to fish in summer, and go logging in winter. In between there was nothing for us to do." There still often is nothing, but at least nowadays there is unemployment benefit to be drawn.

A fairer picture of the unemployment picture may be derived from two additional statistics: In 1970, 7.9m. Canadians had jobs; in 1977 that figure was around 9.7m; and the unemployment ratio among men over 24 years of age, the so-called breadwinners, was 5 per cent, as against 4.1 per cent in 1970.

Wages: The wage explosion of 1975 has given way to a rather steadier course of events. In his budget speech Mr. Chrétien estimated that wage settlements had come down from 17 per cent then to six per cent. The worsened economic climate, in which unions are more concerned about jobs than about pay, is the main reason. But it may very well be the case that inflationary expectations were also pruned when Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Prime Minister, did a smart about-turn in 1975 and imposed wage and profit controls.

Unions restive

The controls are about to expire, and since the economy is weak the unions are unlikely to come forward with a great wave of heavy claims. They have, however, shown a certain restiveness. There have been several strikes this year, principally in the iron ore mines of Quebec, and there could be trouble from the public service sector which is less dependent upon economic factors.

One point, at any rate, is definite: that during the period of controls the trend was arrested which had caused unit costs in Canadian manufacturing industry to rise more quickly than those in the U.S. and that

the decline of the exchange rate actually reversed the trend. The matter is discussed in some detail in the annual review of the economic outlook published by the C. D. Howe Research Institute of Montreal⁽¹⁾, which arrives at a fairly optimistic assessment of the medium term prospects. "Canada," it says, "is now experiencing a difficult stage in its economic history, but is doing so under relatively favourable conditions: it has a strong resource potential, average incomes will be rising with surprising speed; and the recent wave of educated young people entering the labour force will have a lot to contribute both as producers and consumers."

A different view comes from the Economic Council of Canada, a semi-official body supposedly representative of private and public interests, though labour walked out because of the imposition of controls in 1975. In its 14th annual review⁽²⁾ it said gloomily: "The outlook for the next five years . . . is for relatively modest growth, persistent inflation, high unemployment, and very large current account deficits." Depending upon the assumptions made, the Council predicts unemployment rates averaging between 7.3 per cent and 8.1 per cent until 1982, and a real growth of GNP by from 4.1 per cent to 4.8 per cent. Perhaps one should comment that growth averaging 4.1 per cent can hardly be taken as a symptom of "English disease."

It is a bit hard to reconcile two views so disparate. The one safe conclusion that the situation is finely poised and could go either way, depending upon a whole set of factors. The chief of these is the world environment. At the moment it looks discouraging, though one has to add that there is little that Canadians or their Government can do about that. There has been much talk in Canada about the need to restructure the economy — away from the export of raw materials and the manufacture of relatively

simple goods such as textiles, clothes, or shoes, and towards exporting goods of a higher added value and producing more goods of a more sophisticated technology. Much has already been done in this line, but more is needed.

It is of note that a main feature of Mr. Chrétien's budget was to offer greatly improved tax incentives for research and development expenditure of Canadian industry. In future it will only have to find 20 cents of every extra dollar spent on research and development: the rest will come from write-offs against taxes.

The other important departure in the budget was a greatly improved tax regime for companies venturing into the tar sands and heavy oil deposits of Alberta and Saskatchewan. They contain several hundreds of billion barrels of oil, but it is expensive to extract and requires technology that still is in course of being perfected. One plant has already been operating at up to 70,000 barrels a day in the tar sands; another is coming into production this year and, in 1979, should reach 125,000 b/d. Plans for a third are under discussion; so are plans for a 100,000 b/d plant to extract heavy oil in the Lloydminster area.

Pipeline benefits

The new tax regime may bring those plans a good deal closer to fruition. Moreover, they are only two of a vast array of energy-related schemes that may go ahead in the coming years. That closest to realisation is the C\$10 bn pipeline to take gas from Alaska to markets in the U.S. It will do more than merely cross Canada: once under construction it will provide jobs on the site, and in the Canadian steel industry, as well as being a route by which, eventually, Canadian gas can be brought south from the Mackenzie River delta and Beaufort Sea.

In the East, in addition to the gigantic James Bay hydro-electric scheme under construction in Quebec, there exist plans for a second electric complex on the River Churchill in Labrador, and for harnessing to electric generators the 50 foot tides that sweep in and out of the Bay of Fundy. Altogether, it is estimated, there are energy-related projects for C\$190 bn that may be realised between now and 1990.

Premiers' conference

These projects took up much of the time of a conference in February attended by Mr. Trudeau and the 10 provincial premiers to try to map a way out of the economic troubles. Quite clearly, as energy becomes more expensive, and with a world oil shortage forecast for the mid-1980s, oil, gas and hydro-electric power will provide economic strength and employment in Canada. The fact that Alberta, at present source of most of Canada's oil and much of the gas has been making additional discoveries, can only be a welcome help.

But the increasing concentration upon energy also means that, for the time being at least, some of the policies of the late 1960s and early 1970s are looking threadbare. There is little scope for economic nationalism in the Canada of 1978: given the payments situation there is little incentive to reduce the role of foreign capital, as was tried, however half-heartedly by legislation, passed in the early Trudeau years, for a Foreign Investment Review Agency; there is little incentive to hold back energy development on conservationist and ecological grounds (though the hearings into the plans for the Alaskan pipeline showed that standards still remain stringent in this respect).

Another idea to have been abandoned is that of "tripartism" — the concept that the market mechanism might be corrected or even supplanted by institutions intended to find a consensus between labour, employers, and government. It originated with the Canadian Labour Congress, and was cautiously taken up in Ottawa. Mr. Trudeau seemed to be lending it support when, in his New Year's broadcast at the end of 1974, he suggested that the market economy might be failing the country.

But the whole concept is alien to North American traditions and fell foul of the growing national mood of conservatism. (Canadians call it "small C conservatism," to distinguish it from the policies of the main opposition party, the Progressive Conservatives). Mr. Trudeau responded to that mood, as he has done in other contexts. Yet it would be rash to conclude that tripartism is dead for ever.

Balancing objectives

Economic nationalism, tripartism and energy policy all illustrate the pressures on any Canadian government to pursue policies responsive to national mood and the international environment. Political and economic prudence call for a constant balancing and re-balancing of diverging sectional, regional, and international objectives.

The hoped-for restructuring of manufacturing industry (and the maintenance of the standard of living) require a high level of foreign borrowing. To service that debt resources will have to be found, developed, exploited, and exported. Canadians refer to that as an economy of hewers of wood and drawers of water. If that be so, then the mere European must marvel at the affluence obtainable from pursuits so humble.

W. L. Luetkens is on the staff of *The Financial Times* and has frequently visited and written about Canada.

(1) *A Time for Realism*, edited by Judith Maxwell. C. D. Howe Research Institute. (2064 Sun Life Building, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 2X7), 1978.

(2) *Into the 1980s*, Supply and Services Canada (Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0S9), 1977.

Britons emigrate to oil sands

Thirty Britons have been hired to take part in what claims to be the largest oil mining undertaking in the world, the oil extraction project at Canada's Athabasca Tar Sands in northern Alberta.

Representatives of Syncrude Canada, gearing up for the first processing of the oil-rich tar sands this summer, visited Britain in January and hired 20 mechanical fitters, instrument technicians and industrial electricians, persons with experience in power stations or heavy industry. All will make their homes near the newly built C\$2.1 m. processing plant just north of Ft. McMurray, 250 miles north of Edmonton.

It was the second visit to Britain by Syncrude. Last year, 10 process operators were hired here.

The plant, which sits on a 7,000-acre site over the richest known deposit of tar sand in the world, is about 90 per cent completed. Some 2,500 workers are expected to be at work at Syncrude by the time it reaches its targeted production of 130,000 barrels of crude oil a day in early 1980. Its initial production level is set at 52,000 per day for this year, doubling to about 105,000 next year.

Since last June, a giant dragline shovel has been stockpiling the tar sand in readiness for the processing start-up. By April, some 18m. metric tons of the tar sands had been stockpiled.

Syncrude was established in 1973 at the height of the mid-East oil crisis and after strenuous pressure by the Canadian government on private oil interests to 'get together' in a joint project to develop the tar sands. The Canadian Government owns a 15 per cent equity share in Syncrude, Alberta owns 10 per cent and Ontario five per cent. Their partners in the private sector are Imperial Oil (Exxon) with 32.25 per cent interest, Canada-Cities Service with 22 per cent, and Gulf Oil of Canada with 16.75 per cent.

The Athabasca tar sands have an estimated reserve of bitumen, the crude oil that is extracted from the tar sands, of 600 thousand million barrels which, it is estimated, will take about 25 years to mine. Others, with an estimated 264 thousand million barrels of bitumen, are at Alberta's Cold Lake, Wabasca and Peace River regions, but these are too deep to mine and are not, as yet, being developed.

What the parties stand for in an election

By Robert J. Jackson
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Canadian political parties have evolved within a system of parliamentary government and since the creation of Canada in 1867, a federal constitutional structure. Such a government is based on the principle of the majority vote of a constituency electing one candidate as representative in parliament. The parties have operated with different degrees of success at the federal and provincial levels. Canada's five regions have distinct political traditions and different social and economic problems, and this fact has fostered the tendency of politics in each region to be somewhat introverted. Jurisdictional disagreements between the provincial and the federal governments have always been part of internal political diplomacy. Among the major social determinants, the French-English cleavage has been a dominant factor in the development and fortunes of the parties.

It is difficult to pinpoint the date of origin of Canadian political parties. In their early years, Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island were all governed by oligarchies which controlled the economic and political power in their particular areas. The little opposition that existed was fragmented and fractional. Only after the advent of responsible government in the nineteenth century (when the executive became responsible to the legislature) did the factions and interests begin to mature into what could be called parties. As legislative responsibilities were extended and the franchise expanded, the pressures for party cohesion and organisation increased and recognisable political parties emerged.

Even today, history and traditional loyalties rather than the logic of ideology are the distinguishing features of Canadian political parties. The actual labels of the parties are practically insignificant, as even a cursory examination of their platforms reveals. The two major parties have traditionally acted as brokers or middlemen selecting and editing ideas they consider to have widest appeal to the electorate.

Two dominant parties

Two major parties, the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals, originated in the

context of parliamentary activity and have dominated federal politics since the earliest days. The Conservative Party was pre-eminent in the nineteenth century and the Liberal Party has formed the government for most of the twentieth. Fragment and movement parties have appeared, sometimes briefly, in this century. The most significant have been the CCF-NDP and Social Credit which both emerged as protest parties. Although neither has ever come close to forming a federal government, they have experienced considerable success at the provincial level. Moreover, in periods of minority government in Ottawa they have also had more significance than their numerical strength would indicate.

The Progressive Conservative Party

The oldest Canadian party, the Progressive Conservative, can be traced back to 1854 when John A. MacDonald brought together a working alliance called the Liberal-Conservative which included eastern commercial interests, conservative French Canadians, and Ontario Tories. Their objective was to bring about Confederation and then implement a National Policy which entailed encouraging national unity and development of the country by promoting a national railway, industry and commerce. Maintenance of the British connection and establishment of relatively high tariffs were fundamental to their political stance.

French Canadians were traditionally cautious of the Conservatives because of the party's strong British interests. The execution of Louis Riel — the rebel French-speaking métis leader — and later the imposition of military conscription on reluctant French Canadians in 1917 drastically reduced the party's popularity in French Quebec. Robert Borden, who had become Conservative Prime Minister in 1911 before the war, continued after the 1917 election as head of a Union government, a coalition of Conservative and English-speaking Liberals.

Neither Arthur Meighen nor his successor, R. B. Bennett, was able as party leader to

make new inroads in Quebec. In the 1920's the party structure rapidly became over-centralised in Ontario. Westerners, who lacked a strong party tradition, formed the temporarily successful Progressive Party with a labour-farm oriented platform, and undermined Conservative strength in the prairies. In power again during the worst of the depression years, 1930-1935, the Conservatives were assured of further unpopularity and loss of support.

In 1942, the Conservatives tried to consolidate their forces by choosing John Bracken, the Progressive premier of Manitoba, as their leader and renamed their party the Progressive Conservatives. However, party fortunes did not improve until 1957 when they formed a minority government under a new leader from the west, John G. Diefenbaker. This upset victory preceded a landslide in 1958. In that election the party captured not only the western vote, but also 50 seats in Quebec. However, the victory was ephemeral, and in the 1963 election the Conservatives were defeated.

Robert Stanfield replaced John Diefenbaker, but conflict over the leadership created factions within the party and disrupted the organisation at the local level. Mr. Stanfield was unable to reunite the party or gain strength in the province of Quebec. In 1972 the Conservatives won 18 per cent of the popular vote in Quebec but only 2 of its 74 seats. They lost again in 1974 following a campaign for wage and price controls, which paradoxically were instituted by their opponents the next year. Joe Clark, a 36 year old Albertan, replaced Robert Stanfield following a leadership convention in 1976.

The loss of French Canadian support has been the single most important factor in the decline of Conservative strength in the twentieth century. Quebec, the second most populous province in Canada and the only one that is predominantly French and Catholic, traditionally votes as a bloc, so that it is virtually impossible for a party to form a government without its support. Since 1891 the Conservative Party has won a majority of the Quebec seats in a federal election only once, in 1958. The Conservative challenge today is to build a significant electoral base in Quebec and

restore the party's national representation or to capture practically all of the seats in the other nine provinces.

The Liberal Party

The Liberal Party as a national force was much slower to develop than the Conservative. The opposition to John A. MacDonald's first government consisted of Clear Grits from Ontario, le Party Rouge from Quebec, and anti-Confederation Nova Scotia MPs. They were generally considered to be more egalitarian and proletarian than the Conservatives, and were said to believe in solving major inequalities through governmental action. There was no real unity in the group until Wilfrid Laurier became leader in 1887. During his 15 year tenure (1896-1911) he transformed these early Liberals into a national party. Laurier firmly entrenched the Liberal Party in Quebec, with assistance from people like Honore Mercier and Israel Tarte. He also confirmed the Liberals as less pro-British and more pro-American than the Conservative Party.

The Liberal coalition was temporarily destroyed following the Conscription Crisis and the election of the Union Government in 1917, but in 1921 William Lyon Mackenzie King became leader and proceeded to rebuild the Liberal Party into a strong organisation which dominated Canadian government for most of the present century. King himself retains the record for number of years in power; he was Prime Minister for 21 years 5 months (1921-1930, 1935-1948). Under his leadership the Liberals made obvious efforts to accommodate agrarian protest from the west by forming an alliance with the Progressives, but this alliance collapsed when the Progressives joined the Conservatives. The Liberals under Louis St. Laurent (who was defeated by John Diefenbaker in 1957), and his successor Lester Pearson (party leader from 1957-1968, Prime Minister from 1963-1968), continued more or less successfully to accommodate Quebec aspirations.

In 1968 Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a 48 year old relative newcomer to federal politics, assumed leadership of the Liberal Party. He has since led the party to three electoral victories. In the 1974 election Quebec remained the party stronghold. The main Liberal weaknesses were in British Columbia and especially in the prairie provinces where only four of the 45 constituencies returned Liberals. Survey results show that the party attracted substantial numbers of votes from almost all sectors except farmers.

Having won all but six of the 24 general elections since 1891, the Liberal Party has naturally built strong, politically advantageous ties with most parts of the Canadian economy. Traditionally, it has tended to espouse centralising policies in its dealings with the provinces. Recently it dramatically increased the government's participation in the economic life of the country with the 1975 decision to enforce wage and price controls.

The CCF — New Democratic Party

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation met for their first annual convention in 1933, an assortment of Fabian socialists, Marxists, farm and labour groups under the leadership of J. S. Woodsworth. The party they formed had a predominantly western rural backing, and in the ensuing 28 years never attracted more than 16 per cent of the popular vote in a federal election. When organised labour decided to openly espouse a political party the CCF was the logical choice, and consequently in 1961, the old Co-operative Commonwealth Federation was dissolved and a new party, with a democratic socialist platform, was born. The New Democratic Party retained many CCF leaders. The increased participation of organised labour caused some tensions between farmers and labourers, and the extent to which the party should be influenced by the movement continues to be a divisive issue.

Vigorous leadership by Tommy Douglas in the early years and later by David Lewis was never enough to overcome the lack of funds and ideological divisions which kept the New Democratic Party federally below 31 seats in the House of Commons, and left them a very restricted territorial base. A faction within the party known as the "Waffle" grew in strength in the late 1960's, arguing for a stronger socialist position and greater Canadian independence. The Waffle spokesman was a serious challenger to Edward Broadbent, who won the 1971 leadership convention. Under pressure to disband, this leftish faction finally split from the party shortly after the convention.

The NDP has played a larger role in Canadian politics than its numerical count in parliament would indicate. Its effects were apparent during the 1972 minority government when NDP support was often vital to the Liberals. Support for the NDP is greatest in Western Canada and Ontario. In 1977 its provincial wings form governments in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, having recently lost power in British Columbia. It has no strength to speak of in Quebec, and very little in the Maritimes. NDP platforms are based largely on democratic socialist goals — more government control of private enterprise, higher taxes for big business and industry, increased social welfare and protection from American influences.

The Social Credit Party

The only other minor party of national significance also originated in Western Canada. In the early 1930's during a time of economic depression and agricultural failures, a charismatic preacher, William Aberhart, captured the imagination of Albertans with the financial theories of Major C. H. Douglas, a retired British army engineer. In a 1935 election Social Credit Members flooded the Alberta legislature. At about that time the same solution appealed to an audience in Quebec where, in 1936, La

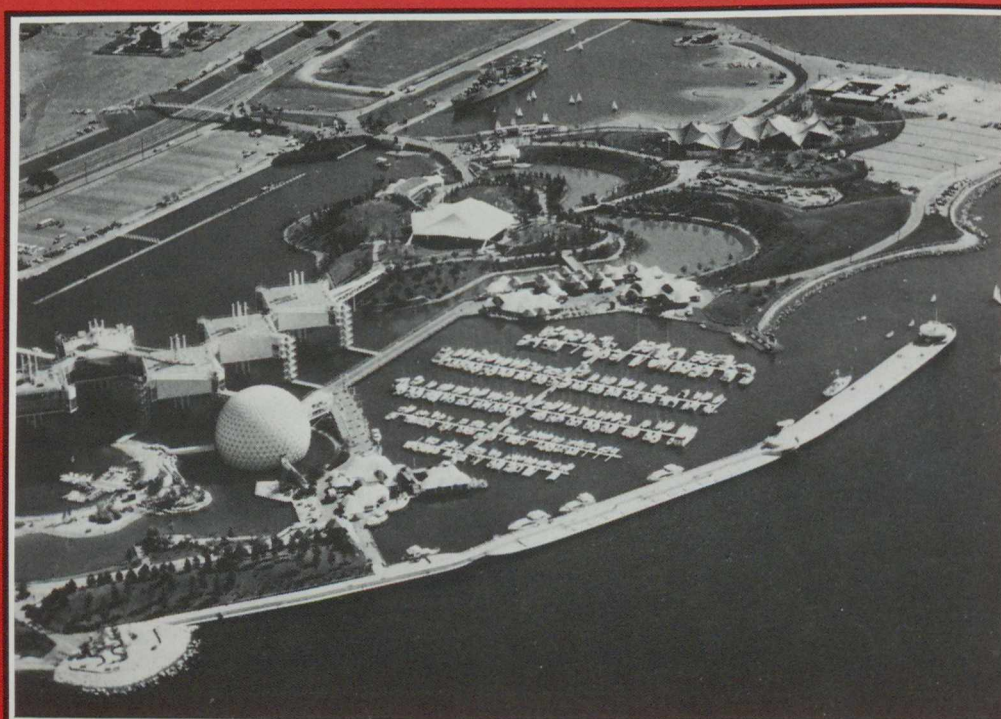
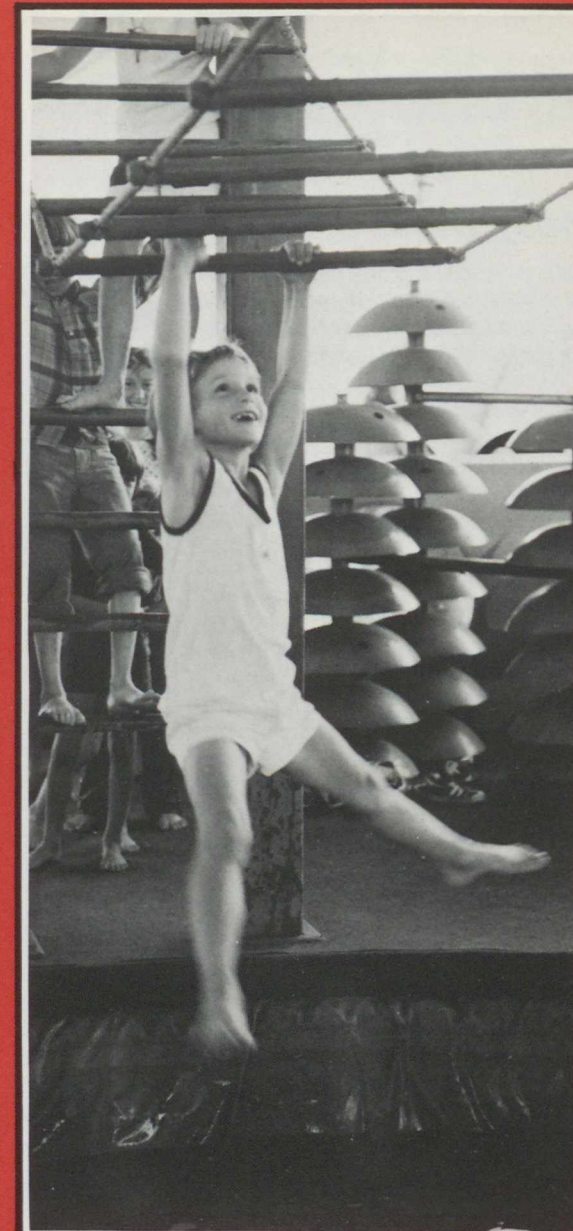
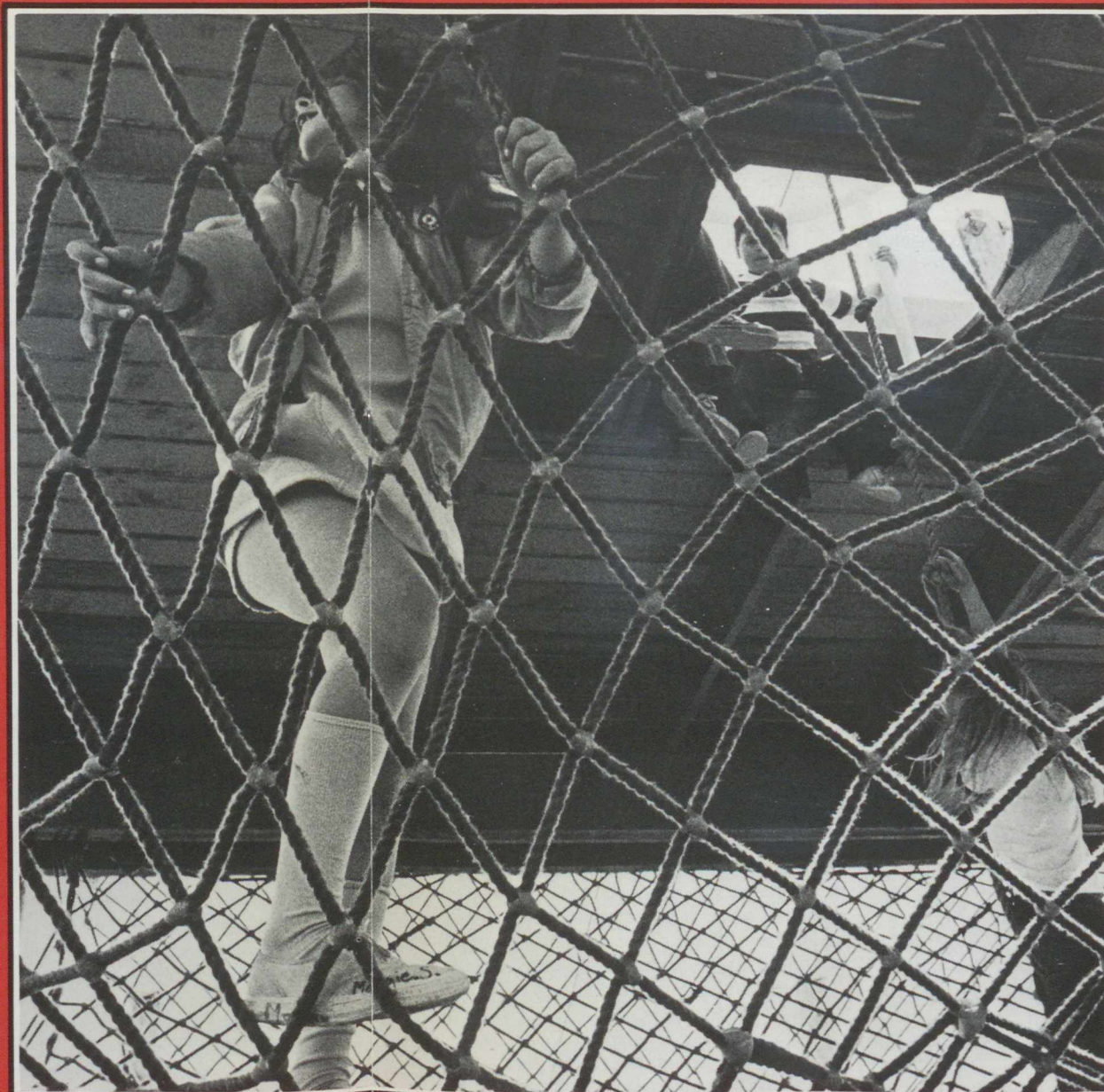
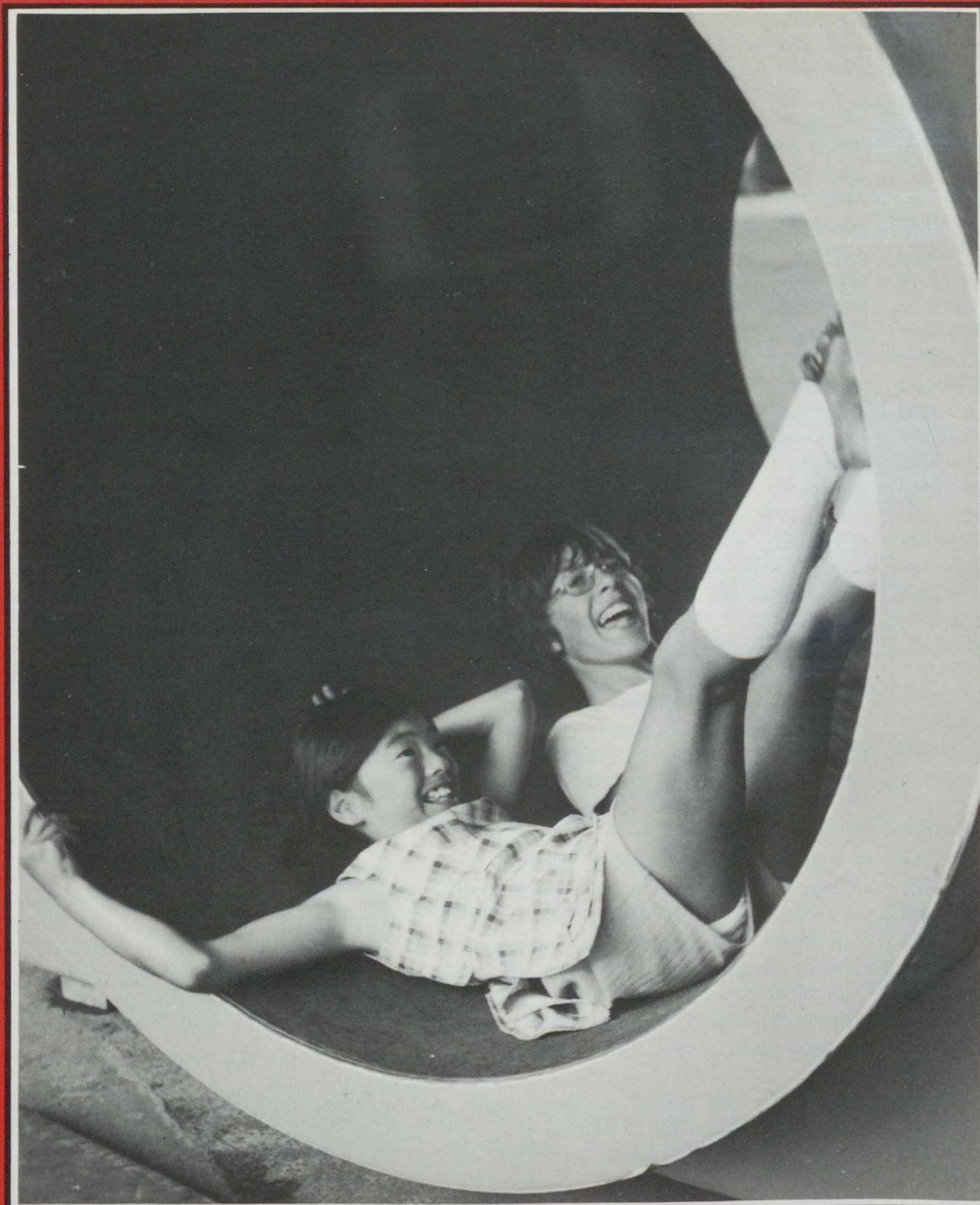
Ligue du Credit Social de la Province du Quebec was established. This branch changed to L'Union des Electeurs and later joined the Western Social Credit Association to become the Social Credit Association of Canada. The Quebec wing was a failure and opted out of electoral politics until the fiery orator Réal Caouette revived it as Le Ralliement des Creditistes (Social Credit Rally). In 1961 they joined the national Social Credit Party. This time they were much more successful than their brothers outside of Quebec, and eventually broke away from the more pragmatic National Party led by Robert Thompson. Mr. Thompson eventually abandoned Social Credit and joined the Conservatives. Réal Caouette re-established the party across Canada and led it in the 1972 election. Since 1965 no Social Credit Member has been elected to the federal parliament from western Canada, but the Quebec wing, Le Ralliement, until 1974, maintained a small representation of 14 or 15 MPs.

The 1974 Ralliement-Social Credit campaign platform was as usual based on the principle of monetary reform. They won only 11 seats, one seat short of the number needed to retain official party status in Ottawa, and suffered a drop in the overall popular vote from eight per cent in 1972 to five per cent in 1974. Even in Quebec they dropped from 24.4 per cent to 17.2 per cent, which put them well behind the Conservative Party in that province in terms of the total vote. Regrettably, Mr. Réal Caouette died in late 1976. In June 1977 André Fortin, the new party leader, died and Gilles Caouette became the interim chief, until May this year when Lorne Reznowski was elected leader.

Support for the Social Credit Party has always been strictly regional, rural, and working class. In Quebec Mr. Caouette worked to organise the protest of low status groups against elite domination of high public offices in that province. The Social Credit Party has had minimal impact on the Canadian government. Only on rare occasions during a minority government have its few votes been important in Parliament. However, it remains a significant, but provincial, force.

Provincial Parties

While national parties operate at both the provincial and federal levels, the relationship between the party organisations of the two wings is loose and varies with the province, party and particular time. Provincial organisations, which very often are active only at election times, may participate in federal campaigns, but the national organisations normally do not become involved in provincial affairs or campaigns without provincial demand. Provincially, parties which are non-existent or minor federally are often strong enough to form the government or official opposition. For example, the Parti Québécois hold power in Quebec, and the Social Credit and New Democratic Party form governments in Western Canada.



Children have their share of the fun at Ontario Place, Toronto, which is fairly described as a playground for children of all ages. Built on a series of man-made islands on Lake Ontario and architecturally reminiscent of a liner in mid-ocean, Ontario Place is a dedicated expression of contemporary man on harmless pleasure bent. A marina, an outdoor theatre and a "cinesphere" that bowls you over with three-dimensional movies are a representative sample of the diversions for grown-ups.

Children come in for a climbing, bouncing, swinging, crawling bonanza that pushes the scope of playground activity to the limits. Eric McMillan, who designed the area known as the "children's village", is a pioneer bent on improving Canadian playgrounds and broadening their scope with a whole "buffet" of facilities. His playgrounds incorporate covered areas for use all year round, because "children don't just play and fantasize between May and October".

This "children's village" provides an amazing range of non-mechanical facilities — and in summer there is water play, with pedal pump battles followed by a session in the big drier "to take the chill off".



Edmonton prepares for the Games

By Barry Wilson

Probably the most famous moment in the 48-year history of the Commonwealth or British Empire Games was at Vancouver in 1954 on the last bend of the mile race.

The year before, Britain's Roger Bannister had become the first man to break the four-minute mile. In the race to this historic milestone he just beat Australian John Landy, but within a matter of months Landy, too, beat four minutes and toppled Bannister's record.

Thus it was that the Vancouver Games played host to the first meeting of the two giants, the undoubted "mile of the century." And it was no anti-climax. Landy tried to lead all the way, and it was only on the last bend, as the roar of the Canadian crowd deafened the sound of the flying feet, that Landy looked anxiously round. Unfortunately he looked over his left shoulder at the very moment Bannister swept passed on the other side to win in 3 min. 59.4secs.

This summer the Commonwealth Games return to Canada for the first time since 1954, to Edmonton, in oil-rich Alberta, and there is every chance of an equally epic confrontation as that between Bannister and Landy 24 years ago.

The present story goes back four years, to the last Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand. There the metric mile, the 1500 metres, was won by a little known African in what still stands out as one of the finest solo track running feats of all time. Tiny Filbert Bayi, from Tanzania, led by a street all the way to win in a breathtaking world record of 3mins. 32.2secs., a record which still stands. It is the equivalent of a mile in 3mins. 48.5secs., enough to beat Bannister by nearly 80 yards!

Second to Bayi in that wonderful race four years ago was an even less well known young New Zealander called John Walker. But within 12 months Walker made his own name when he broke the world one mile record with a time of 3mins. 49secs.

So the stage was set for another "mile of the century" at the Montreal Olympics between Bayi and Walker. Sadly, of course, that race never came off because of the African boycott of the Olympics, and Walker won the Olympic gold medal easily in a slow race.

But it now seems almost certain that the two will meet for the first time in a major title race on the track at Edmonton on the afternoon of Saturday August 12 in the 1500 metres final of XIth Commonwealth Games.



Filbert Bayi of Tanzania, beating the world record for 1500 metres at the last Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand.

But they might both be defeated. Adding spice to the race will be young Steve Ovett, probably Britain's finest miler since Bannister. Last year on different occasions Ovett beat both Bayi and Walker, indeed he beat everyone and was champion of Europe last year. The Edmonton 1500 metres looms as one of the best footraces for many years.

Edmonton will be well prepared. Super-efficiency has been a hallmark of Canada's third Commonwealth Games. (The very first Games were held at Hamilton, Ontario, in 1930, which was appropriate because the Games were a Canadian idea — although it took some 50 years to get them off the ground).

Canadian observers find it irresistible to compare the economical efficiency of the Edmonton preparations with the extravagant delays and controversies of the Montreal Olympics. It is now estimated that the Montreal Games cost something like C\$750m., and strikes and delays in the building programme actually threatened abandonment of the whole project. Most of the Edmonton building programme was completed ahead of time, and the total cost is an almost incredibly small C\$36m. — and this figure is C\$4m. less than originally budgetted. In addition, all the building work is planned for future use. The main stadium itself will be a new home for the Edmonton Eskimos football team (beaten in this season's Grey Cup by Montreal). All the venues are very central, and the city has timed a major improvement in its public transport to coincide with the Games.

Cynics wonder if the Games might not have got more publicity if there had been more hassles such as Montreal "enjoyed" in the run up to the Olympics.

But that is not how they do things in Alberta, the "new" frontier state, where things get done without sentimentality.

Boom province

Alberta is very much the boom province of Canada with oil, gas and coal reserves ample to keep the two million residents at least materially comfortable for some time to come. Business booms all over the place at a time when much of the rest of the industrial world is in recession. The statistics of success roll on: "one new or expanded plant every 3.9 working days" and last year "industrial plants worth C\$13,567,690,000 under construction."

And the Games organizers still claim that the cost of living is lower in Edmonton than in any other of the big Canadian cities.

So trouble-free have been the Edmonton Games preparations that local journalists have had to go so far as almost to invent some strife. There was the inter-Alberta one-day row concerning Calgary's alleged attempt to upstage the Games by putting on a "Commonwealth" Stampede. Then there was the swiftly denied allegation that the Games organizers were not hiring "ethnic" hostesses. Then the much publicised complaint of an Edmonton citizen who sent C\$140 for Games tickets and had to wait two months to get word that none of the tickets he wanted was available. "This sort of thing will get the Games a bad name," he said. Sad for the Games publicists the story got no overseas mileage at all!

As far as ticket sales are concerned the organizers say the position is "satisfactory". However, it is known that tickets are already hard to get for the gymnastics competitions (in the Commonwealth Games for the first time this year), and for the swimming events, in which Canada is expected to do well. The capacity of the main stadium is just over 40,000.

There may be some difficulty with accommodation. Edmonton is not a major tourist centre. The organizers say there will be about 6,000 hotel rooms available by the time of the Games. They also say they have had a good response to the "home hospitality programme", and that within 50 miles of the city there are many "natural setting" campgrounds. If as many people go to Edmonton as the organizers forecast there could be a lot who will have to make do with camping, and while the winter is cruel in northern Alberta the mean max. and min. in the first half of August are very campable: 23°C (73°F) and 11°C (52°F).

Ten sports

Ten sports are on the Edmonton Games programme: athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, bowls, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and wrestling. Of these, two are not in the Olympics: bowls and badminton, and competition in these is nearly as good as a world championship.

In boxing, cycling, gymnastics, shooting, weightlifting and wrestling, it has to be said that the standard will be below Olympic class.

Canadian swimmers

The swimming standard only just edges up to world class because of the recent emergence of Canada as a world power in the sport. At the Montreal Olympics Canada rated fourth after the United States, East Germany and the Soviet Union in the swimming events, and will be out to prove the point in the Edmonton pool. Strongest competition will be from Britons. Australians, the world's best in the late 1950s and early 1960s, show no sign of real revival yet.

There is no doubting the world class of Commonwealth athletes, on the track at least if not in the field events.

Commonwealth sprinters won the men's 100m (Hasely Crawford from Trinidad) and the 200m (Don Quarrie from Jamaica) at the Montreal Olympics and both can be expected in Edmonton.

In the long distance races British stars such



Roger Bannister overtaking John Landy to win the mile at Vancouver in 1954.

as Brendan Foster and New Zealanders Rod Dixon and Dick Quax will finally cross swords with all the Africans who missed the Olympics, and a special fascination of the Edmonton Games will be to see if the Africans are sustaining the progress they made in the years before the Montreal Games. Such names as Omwanza, Mike Boit, Waigwa and Samson Kimombwa (unheralded breaker of the world 10,000 metres record last year) could all win gold medals on the Edmonton track.

Silver dollar for games

The Royal Canadian Mint has announced the issue of a new silver dollar to commemorate the XI Commonwealth Games at Edmonton, Alberta, in August.

The new silver dollar is the first ever to combine both inset and relief in the engraving.

The reverse, the work of Toronto artist Raymond Taylor, shows the official symbols of the ten amateur sports which will be presented. The symbols are inset around the perimeter, while in the centre the insignia of the Edmonton games, a stylized maple leaf, is treated in raised relief.

The obverse shows an effigy of the Queen by Arnold Machin.

Canadian silver dollars have been struck to mark highlights in recent Canadian history since 1935, when the first was struck to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V. The new dollar will be available in the U.K. through Spink and Son.



Computer to take over the home

By R. I. Croft

A computer system that can help with the cooking, organise the budget and tell you where the kids are, is being marketed by a Vancouver Island company. It costs about C\$2,000 to install and is "worth the cost", according to Dr. Bill Bowie, University of Victoria assistant professor of computer sciences — who is also a partner in the company which has put it on the market.

Arguments in favour of the mini-computer are that it proves itself by handling family budgets and keeping track of bank balances, while at income tax time it is "a real gem". An interesting sidelight on its promoters is that it doesn't seem to have occurred to them that anyone might react with violent antipathy to the prospect of inviting Big Brother to join the family.

"If the wife is baking a cake or making a fancy meal, she could get the recipe instantly from the computer." No one could object to that, but how about the next move? "It is ideal for family messages. Everyone could check in with the computer when they come in or out. It acts like a family notice board."

Checking in at work is one thing, but who wants to check in and out of the home?

The computer could make family calendars obsolete, Dr. Bowie declares: someone can programme all the dental appointments and birthday parties at the beginning of the month and a push of the button will give the information on each day. "No one should forget a wedding anniversary with a computer in the home."

No, indeed: the happy computerised wife has the security of knowing that her computerised husband will read the reminders as he checks in and checks out of the home, dutifully doing what they have jointly agreed that he should do to mark the occasion.

"This is a new field and the potential for growth is almost unlimited," Dr. Bowie proudly claims. The mind boggles. One day we shall wake up and realize that we needn't bother to remember or decide anything at all. It will all be there on the computer: ours but to switch on and do as we read. Our lives will be led for us — until boredom sets in and the nostalgia for spontaneous action inspires some crank to turn off the switch.

Professor Charles Best gave more than insulin to medical science



Professor Best and his wife on their Golden Wedding day in 1974.

Professor Charles Herbert Best, who died in Toronto at the end of March, aged 79, was famed as the co-discoverer of insulin, to which many diabetics owe their lives.

His other contributions to the progress of medicine are not so well-known though they are also important. He played a major role in the development of heparin, a blood thinner, and its use to prevent clotting. Heparin subsequently proved vital in open heart surgery.

Best and his research team established the importance of choline as a dietary compound that protects in liver. He also contributed to the knowledge of histamine, a substance that lowers blood pressure.

The discovery of insulin was, however, the most dramatic and revolutionary achievement of his research career. It came about in the summer of 1921, when at the age of 22 he graduated with a BA in physiology and biochemistry at the University of Toronto. That year Dr. Frederick Banting, a 29-year-old surgeon with a practice in London, Ontario, applied to the physiology department at Toronto for permission to use a laboratory during the summer. He wanted to trace a substance in the pancreas which was believed to prevent diabetes.

Dr. J. J. R. McLeod, then head of the physiology department, though sceptical about Banting's theory, eventually gave permission. He also realised that Banting

would need the help of a biochemist and asked for a volunteer among his students. Charles Best quickly volunteered: the death of a favourite aunt from diabetes four years before gave personal grounds for his interest and wish to find an answer to the problem of treating it.

Slept in laboratory

The two men worked almost 24 hours a day through the hot Toronto summer, trying to extract a substance from the pancreas that would reverse diabetes in dogs whose pancreas glands had been removed. Neither of them was paid and Banting sold his car to buy food and research supplies. They often ate and slept alongside the laboratory animals, rising at intervals in the night to make tests.

Finally they achieved success. After a shot of the substance known later as insulin, Marjorie, their most famous dog, emerged from a diabetic coma, got to her feet and licked their hands. She lived for years after as a pet.

After they had proved the safety of insulin by injecting large doses into each other, it was used in Toronto General Hospital to save the first human patient, a 14-year-old boy.

The discovery of insulin brought world fame to the department at Toronto, which was

clouded by the fact that Prof. McLeod claimed a lot of the kudos that really belonged to the two younger men. In 1923 the Nobel Prize for medicine was awarded for it jointly to McLeod and Banting, with no mention of Best — although Banting always sought to give him equal credit and, indeed, shared his prize money with Best.

Honoured by Queen

Time, however, has put the record straight and honours along with due recognition have been heaped on Charles Best: in 1971, the 50th anniversary of the discovery of insulin, the Queen made him a Companion of Honour.

He did not practise medicine but continued in research for the whole of his working life. After a period of study in England he returned to the University of Toronto, holding positions in the Connaught laboratories and the school of hygiene until 1928, when he succeeded Prof. McLeod as head of the physiology department. In 1943 his former research partner, by then Sir Frederick Banting, died in an air crash and Best, deeply grieved at his death, succeeded him as head of the Banting and Best Department of medical research — a post he held until his retirement in 1967.

Prof. Best always supported young researchers and was keen to entertain new ideas. He often said that he looked forward to the day when medical research would make insulin obsolete.

Book reviews By Jenny Pearson

Ghost in the Wheels, selected poems by Earle Birney

At last McClelland and Stewart have produced an edition of Earle Birney which is ideal for English readers. To discover Birney up to this moment one needed a small library: a lifetime's energetic writing, ranging from the stark tragedy of his famous earlier poem *David* to the droll self-mockery and moments of moving simplicity in his carefully-observed writing of more recent years (he is 74), runs to a lot of volumes.

With all this poetry and *Turvey*, a pungent novel of army life which Birney won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour in 1949, it has been difficult to know where to begin ordering his books from this side of the Atlantic. The *Collected Poems*, published in 1975 in two hardback volumes, at £14 were more of a dish for the converted. But now comes *Ghost in the Wheels*: 100 selected poems in paperback, led off with a gem of a Preface — the next best thing to a live poetry reading for the way it casts his quirky, personal spell on anyone who may drop in.

Earle Birney is a sophisticate among Canadian writers. He has travelled the world many times, leaving the confines of nationalism behind him and returning to view his countrymen with irony, sparing other Canadians no more than he spares himself in his reflections on human error and absurdity.

"The Canadian approach to poetry is often more literal than literate," says the Preface: one can detect the echoes of many years' crying in the wilderness. "I wrote a book once to disprove, among other legends, the belief that I did push my best friend off a cliff" (the dramatic end to *David*). "But there are students, and at best one 'Professor of Can. Lit.' who still doubt my word..."

Another poem republished in *Ghost*, one of the self-mocking variety, laughs at Birney himself for being too literal-minded in his interpretation of a public relations gimmick. A girl employed by an airline to greet passengers arriving at Honolulu Airport kisses him and garlands him with flowers. He addresses her, "o implausible shepherdess for this one ageing sheep" and the poem, echoing the 23rd Psalm of David and called *Twenty-Third Flight*, reaches lyrical heights of absurdity.

Birney's sophistication lies in accepting and relishing his Canadian inheritance without being hemmed in by it. His travels (reading poetry, his own and others', to audiences the world over) have made him as sharp in his observation of other nations, other cultures, as he is of his own. And suddenly his poetic imagination will take flight out of the present scene into the ether of wider vision: as in *The bear on the Delhi road*, republished here. The collection in fact contains all the poems that, in perusing various of Birney's books over the years, have struck this reviewer with the certainty that one was reading something important. Take *The Shapers: Vancouver*. Facing up to the enormous questions surrounding man's impact for good or ill on the natural world, which the skyscrapers against the backdrop of mountains pose so starkly as one looks at Vancouver, he asks:

*is there a rhythm drumming from vision?
shall we tower into art or ashes?*

The poem concludes,
*it is our dreams will decide
and we are their Shapers.*

It is said that to see where a culture is heading one needs to read its poets. *Ghost in the Wheels* is a valuable key for anyone who wants to know and understand Canada.

Coleridge on a Georgian Bay Island



Kathleen Coburn In Pursuit of Coleridge. Bodley Head. £4.50.

The story of Kathleen Coburn, the Toronto academic with a lifelong passion for an English poet who died some 75 years before she was born, is likely to be read and enjoyed widely beyond the scholarly circles where it has already been enthusiastically acclaimed.

She succeeds in making the struggles and rewards of scholarly research come alive in such a way that re-living them with her is a bit like reading a good detective story, while her narrative skill is such that one comes easily to share her fondness for people and places encountered along the way — from the bluff, affectionate rudeness of the poet's late relative, Geoffrey, Lord Coleridge (who had to be got round in order to study papers in the family library) to the peace and space of Miss Coburn's island home in Georgian Bay.

This island — a 5½-acre slab of granite, wooded with sandy coves, registered as B578 — has been Miss Coburn's summer retreat since she and Jessie Macpherson, a colleague from Victoria College, Toronto, bought it from the Crown for C\$187.78 in 1939. It is here, in a house they had built for them, that she patiently sifted the material brought back from her researches in England, putting together her famous editions of the Coleridge notebooks and lectures. Since Jessie Macpherson died, she has kept on going there alone, paddling to and fro in her canoe and relying on Indian friends for help and supplies.

She declares that the two best places she has found for "the editorial process through which Coleridge puts me" are the British Museum and Georgian Bay: the Museum, because one is surer than anywhere of finding the precise edition of any work to which Coleridge refers; the island, because there she finds that the rhythms of life and the rhythms of work harmonize in a way that doesn't happen in a city.

She describes in her book how the ancient, pre-Cambrian land-and-water-scape exerts a calming influence: how "the wide expanse of fresh water, the granite rock, the insistent presence of the elements, have steadied perspective when at times the whole undertaking threatened to become overwhelming."

There is an element of historical irony in the fact that Miss Coburn found in this remote part of her native Canada the peace she needed to order and publish so much that the poet himself left disordered, in fragmentary form, at the end of a difficult and tortured life. As a young man, Coleridge shared with the poet Southey a fantasy of escaping to the New World and establishing an ideal literary community on the banks of the Susquehanna River. Thus Miss Coburn and a group of editors on both sides of the Atlantic named a plan to publish the first complete edition of Coleridge "the Susquehanna scheme." That venture is nearing completion.

It is 50 years since Kathleen Coburn was first nudged in the direction of Coleridge, listening to a lecture by Pelham Edgar in the English department at Victoria College, Toronto. What Edgar said about Coleridge and the imagination made her begin to wonder about possible links with the German philosophers she had recently been reading with G. S. Brett, the philosophy professor, who was himself intensely interested in the functioning of the imagination. "Out of total ignorance came excitement and a curiosity that 45 years and more have not quenched — nor indeed satisfied."

That explains **how** she became enthralled, but not **why**. At the end of reading her book, the answer to the second question remains as mysterious as Kubla Khan. To understand that, I suspect one would have to take the same road and delve into the works of the poet himself: then one would be in danger of joining the growing band of Coleridgians that form societies throughout the world, burning with the same fire and tracking down these not-quite-soluble mysteries.

News Diary

Flights to Saskatoon

Eight years before Charles Lindberg soloed the Atlantic, a young Regina pilot was already making Canadian aviation history. But like many pioneers and visionaries, he was considered slightly crazy and many ridiculing fingers pointed to foreheads: "It's the war, you know."

But Lieutenant Roland J. Groome was undeterred. He firmly believed that Canada's future was in commercial aviation and, on a few acres of ground on the outskirts of Regina, he made his plans. He purchased two Curtiss aircraft and on May 26, 1919, flew the 48-mile stretch between Regina and Moose Jaw carrying specially printed editions of the Regina Leader.

Commercial flying in Canada was born.

Groome had to wait another year before he was granted Canada's first commercial pilot's licence, which arrived just in time. For two days later a second licence was issued to his rival, Sam McClelland, in Saskatoon.

Though Saskatchewan pilots paved the way to commercial flying in Canada, it's ironic that the province has waited so long for a place on the international air map.

But now the long wait is over.

On June 19, an Air Canada Lockheed 1011 will wing its way from Heathrow on the first of a once-weekly direct schedule between the U.K. and Saskatoon, linking Saskatchewan's Hub City with Prestwick and London via Winnipeg.

Today Saskatoon is one of the fastest-growing air markets on the prairies and a direct Transatlantic service has been the aim of the community for several years. The flight coincides with the city's 75th official anniversary year.

Saskatoon was established as a colony in 1882, but it was not until July 1, 1903 that town status was granted by the Territorial Government. And from the humble beginnings of 35 Ontario settlers, Saskatoon is now a thriving city with a population close on 140,000.

Situated on the South Saskatchewan River, it is one of the most beautiful cities on the prairies and the gateway to a northern paradise and thousands of square miles of unspoiled forests, lakes and waterways.

It is a proud city, where community spirit is second to none; where its citizens claim to be

among the fittest and healthiest in the world; where modern business and amenities blend perfectly with the great outdoors; and where recreation facilities keep pace with the growing population. In short, Saskatoon is a lesson to town planners everywhere.

Saskatoon is also the education centre of the province and the University of Saskatchewan has become world renowned for its work in agriculture and medicine. It has many 'firsts' to its credit, including the installation of the world's first beatron for the treatment of deep-rooted cancer.

Saskatoon's Indian name is Mis-sask-quahrtoo-min which, roughly translated, means 'a carpet of flowers' and civic leaders are promising that the carpet will be truly laid in time for the inaugural flight on June 19.

Though Saskatoon is basking in this moment of glory, tomorrow could be the turn of Regina. Already hopes are high that the Queen City will be included on the Transatlantic run by 1979 — almost 60 years to the day when and where it all began.

The dedication plaque to Roland Groome, which now hangs in the lounge of Regina Airport, has every right to break into a big smile.

New anti-bomb device



Members of the Quebec Provincial Police and Montreal Police bomb squads feel safer in their work these days, thanks to a new invention which allows them to neutralise bombs by remote control. The device, called a Neutrex and invented by local resident Josef Elsener, dismantles bombs simply by activating the trigger.

The Neutrex, which looks like a small cannon, sits on a tripod. The operator simply aims it at the package containing the bomb, fires it, and the device pierces a small hole in the package. Sgt. Andrew Theodoses of the Montreal bomb squad explains that a miniature, controlled explosion takes place. "Vapour and gas then push everything outwards and throw everything apart."

No one is letting on what is actually discharged from the device. "If that information leaked out to the terrorist milieu, it would defeat the whole purpose," the inventor says.

Protecting wildlife from pipeline

Yukon and Alaskan Government wildlife experts have met in Whitehorse to prepare a common policy when construction work starts on the Alaska-Canada natural gas pipeline.

Alaska officials explained that during construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipe there were frequent violations of fish and wildlife protection legislation. During the heaviest construction year there were 700 violations in the state including the poaching of more than 100 moose.

Mark Hoffman, the Yukon Government's chief conservation officer, said this was the first of a series of meetings and discussed such subjects as harassment of wildlife by aircraft, the problem of bears and wolves attacking construction camps and the protection of endangered species.

Science in space

When the US space shuttle makes its first operational flight in 1980 it will carry an experiment to be conducted by two Canadian scientists. R. C. Tennyson and J. S. Hansen of Toronto University will be attempting to determine the effect of space exposure on the mechanical properties of lightweight materials, such as graphite and boron. Tests from space on thermal stress and degradation will be correlated with tests conducted in a vacuum chamber.

The Canadian experiment is among 23 selected by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for a long-duration exposure facility mission. The space shuttle — a reusable, unmanned, free-flying structure — will be in circular orbit between six months and a year while its experiments are exposed to the environment of space. At the end of its mission it will be retrieved by orbiter and returned to Earth.

Lynn Koskela is only 22 years old, but already is planning to open her own ballet school in North Bay. Lynn, who started ballet dancing at the age of five, has performed with the National Ballet School of Canada, is a former member of the Contemporary Dancers of Winnipeg and has conducted classes in Ukrainian folk dance.



Economic Digest

Budget boosts consumer spending

Retail sales taxes dropped in most provinces after an unprecedented arrangement announced in the Federal budget brought down by Finance Minister Jean Chrétien in April.

The temporary cuts of two or three cents on the dollar — with the Government compensating provinces for the revenue loss — were unveiled as a measure to give a quick stimulus to the economy; the Minister acknowledged that income tax cuts announced last October had not spurred economic growth as much as expected.

Other tax benefits were announced for companies undertaking research and development, investors in registered retirement savings plans, oil companies and for railways to speed modernization.

A 50 per cent deduction will be allowed companies which make further investments in research and development. The after-tax cost of one dollar of spending will be cut to about 20 cents, costing the Federal Government C\$50 million.

Depletion allowances to oil companies were increased with the aim of encouraging development of oil sands and heavy oil deposits in the West. And tariff reductions applying to imported goods worth C\$1.5 billion in 1977 are to be extended until June 30, 1979, but preferential tariffs on some British and Irish goods will be eliminated.

Other budget measures included:— the rules governing existing retirement savings plans to be made more flexible; existing tax-free transfer provisions for family farms to be widened to include incorporated family farms; and board and lodging benefits to be tax-free for single persons working at remote work sites. This had been limited to married or equivalent status.

Mr. Chrétien said total financial requirements of the Government in 1978/79 would be about C\$11.5 billion, exclusive of foreign exchange transactions. Budgetary spending and non-budgetary loans were projected at C\$48,450 million, a reduction of C\$350 million from the main spending estimates for the year tabled in February. The reduction, he said, reflected a decision by the Government to reduce the ceiling on expenditures by that amount.

Budgetary revenues after the measures were forecast at C\$36 billion. This was based on an increase in the Gross National Product of 11 per cent in current dollar terms. About six per cent would be due to price changes and close to five per cent to real growth.

Mr. Chrétien said the purpose of the budget was to "take positive and responsible action to deal with the problems which face the Canadian economy in a very troubled world". He was convinced Canada had a potential for economic growth and higher living standards second to none in the world. Canada had the skills, the natural resources and the proven ability to work together in solving its problems.

Trade surplus doubles

Canada's trade surplus in goods hit C\$1.412 billion in the first three months of this year, nearly double that of the same period in 1977, Statistics Canada reported late-April.

The substantial improvement came as a record C\$4.361 billion worth of goods was sold in March running up a surplus for the month of C\$840 million. With the weaker Canadian dollar, exports in March rose by 1.5 per cent while the total value of imports fell by 13 per cent.

Total first quarter exports were valued at C\$12.489 billion compared with imports of C\$11.077 billion.

Production costs down

Increased productivity, moderation in wage demands and the depreciation of the dollar have helped reduce Canada's costs of production and improve its international competitive position. However, unit labour costs in 1977 still rose faster than those of Canada's four major trading partners in domestic currency terms, said the Federal Finance Department in its 1977 Economic Review published late-April.

The Review adds that lower wage increases are needed to secure the gain in competitiveness and that keeping the increase in unit labour costs at or below that of the United States would be the least costly manner of ensuring cost competitiveness.

The Review, summarising much information about the economy already published, said Canada had a real growth rate of 2.6 per cent in 1977, an average unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent and an inflation rate of eight per cent.

Yukon house prices

A real estate survey in the Yukon has shown house prices are rising significantly. The average selling price of a house in Whitehorse is now C\$53,000, an increase of C\$8,000 within a year and rising at an average of C\$1,000 a month.

The value of commercial property is reported to have risen 15 times within 12 months. The survey, conducted by the Territorial Government, suggests that the rise in values is partly attributable to inflation but also to the prospect of gas pipeline construction from Alaska, through the Yukon, to British Columbia.

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audible little trifles like "Once more into the breach, dear friends . . ."

So it is with much of the exhibition. Having satisfied one's curiosity by a close-up, almost voyeurish inspection of these people's lives and effects, one ends up feeling that one has missed the main point: that the important thing about each one of them is the thing one cannot experience fully in such a setting — namely, their art.

The photographers come off best: Yousuf Karsh, the world-famous portrait photographer, and the sensitive social documentation of Ursula Heller, bringing her camera to bear on life as it is lived and celebrated — mostly by ordinary people. "Lower middle class life becomes romantic!" remarked an English social observer at Canada House.

The general impression is that INTERESTING THINGS are happening in the arts in Ontario. There is much enthusiasm and diversity: one's interest is aroused, if not satisfied — except in the design of the exhibition itself, which is masterly: the work of Kuypers, Adamson and Norton, an Ontario firm of industrial designers. And the exhibition is solid evidence of the seriousness of its sponsors, the Ontario Arts Council, through whom the provincial government of Ontario gives generous state assistance to the arts within the province.

"We among others" is showing at the South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks., from April 19 to May 21.

Sulphur pavements?

Millions of tons of waste sulphur, which clutter the landscape around natural gas fields, may soon be used to pave Canadian roads.

A by-product of the refining process before the gas enters the pipelines, the sulphur far exceeds the requirements of the fertilizer industry, occupying increasing tracts of real estate.

Ralph Haas, a professor in the University of Waterloo civil engineering department, is researching the use of sulphur in pavements.

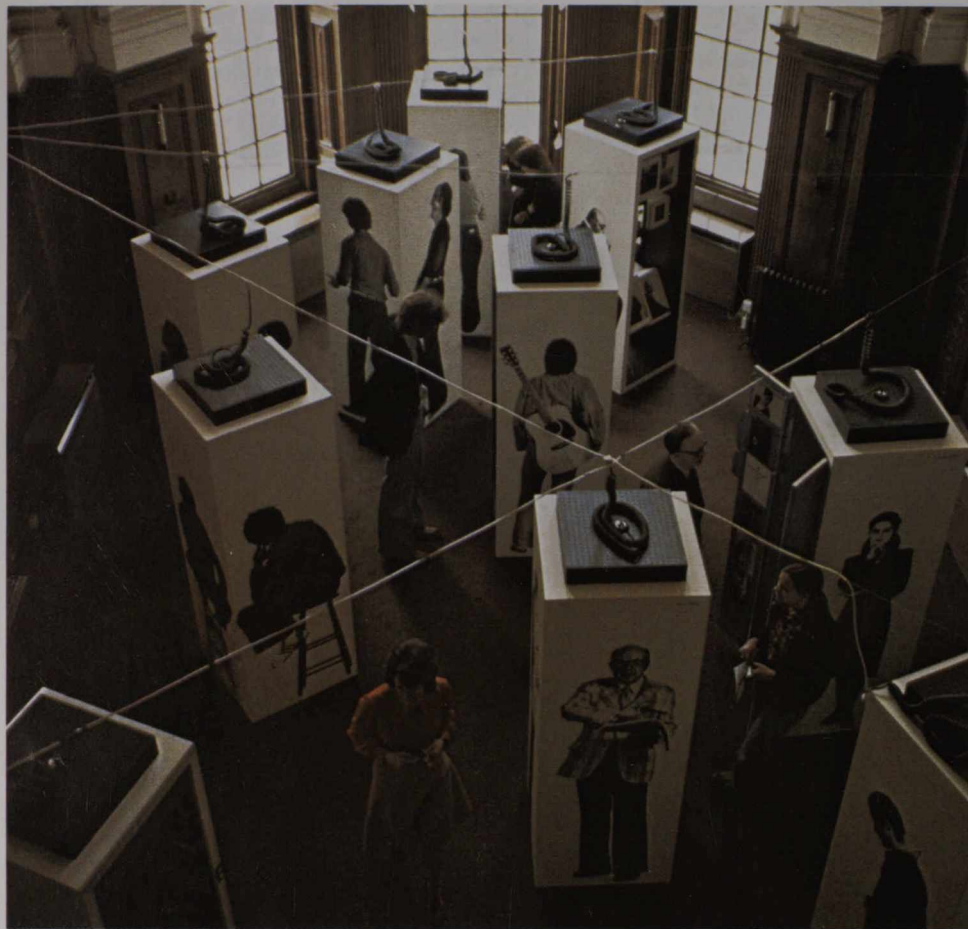
"Traditionally, most of the pavements on our streets and highways have been made with sand and gravel, with the 'glue' binding them being asphalt," he said.

Asphalt, the last by-product removed in the refining of petroleum, is a sticky, tarry substance made up of complex hydrocarbon molecules.

Gulf Oil Canada have evolved a way to mix sulphur and asphalt to make a new kind of binding material for pavements: Haas and his colleagues are submitting the material to a variety of tests.

Almost meeting by Tardis

By Jenny Pearson



"We among others" is the title of an off-beat exhibition from the Canadian province of Ontario, recently seen at the Canada House Gallery in London and moved to the South Hill Park Arts Centre at Bracknell on April 19. Artists taking part present not just their work — there isn't room for much of that when 22 have to fit into one gallery — but themselves, encapsulated, as it were, by modern technology.

Upright boxes vaguely reminiscent of the Tardis in *Dr. Who*, each about the size of a telephone booth, with life-sized black-and-white representations of the subject on three of its four sides, mingle a little disconcertingly among the visitors who have come to see them.

On closer inspection, the effect is both eerie and intriguing. It is an updated version of the boxes children like to bury, containing pictures and relics of their everyday lives and interests, for posterity to dig up and deduce what sort of people they were. The atmosphere is science fiction. At the push of a button, one hears composer Robert Aitken's flute tracing an intricate composition while one inspects photographs of him at work on his music sheets. Margaret Atwood, the writer, is shown galumphing around with her children in gum boots: her push-button evokes a voice that could only belong to a poet from the north American continent, intoning soulfully that "In that country the animals have the faces of children" and "In the refrigerator, old food sickens."

No dancing

"You almost meet them — but not quite!" was the comment of Hugh Cronyn, an Ontario artist now settled in London, at the Canada House opening. The experience of almost meeting people who are in fact on the other side of the Atlantic is the most interesting thing about the show.

The manner of presentation reflects the subjects as much as the actual content. David Earle, choreographer and dancer, struggles to explain in words accompanied by photographs that he can only express himself by dancing: "When words are inadequate, people dance: words are inadequate for me most of the time!" One feels his predicament, but gets little impression of his dancing.

Frances Hyland, an actress, is more at home with words since they are central to her art: she gets quite carried away, describing how she was "chosen, selected by some force I do not understand." Confronted with her lighted mirror and greasepaints and the grey satin dress she wore as Blache in *Streetcar*, one gets the full flavour of the actress in the dressing room — self-projecting, too large for life and in need of the discipline of the stage, which puts together these raw materials and makes them into art. It is perhaps indicative of the spirit of the thing that the background to her self-dramatisation should be filled in with half-

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The exhibition 'We among others' at the South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, photographed by Francis Dodds.

