

Canada Weekly

Volume 7, No. 14

April 4, 1979



After the quake — Canada helps rebuild Friuli, 1

Mexico/Canada career training, 3

Mennonites sponsor refugees, 3

Law of the Sea Conference, 3

Aluminum foils explosions, 3

Gross national product — 1978, 4

Riding on air with the Peace River hoverferry, 5

Special program for gifted children, 6

Carriages donated to the National Museum, 6

News of the arts — theatre, publishing, film, arts briefs, 7

News briefs, 8

After the quake — Canada helps rebuild Friuli

In May 1976, the Friuli region of Italy northeast of Venice, was devastated by an earthquake, in which over 1,000 people were killed and 150,000 made homeless. In addition, much art was obliterated, especially in historical centres like Gemona and Venzone.

Canada, home of many Friuli emigrants, has provided 181 permanent houses in three towns, as well as two old age homes in two other communities.

Free lance writer Thérèse Rickman lived for four years in Italy. She has visited Friuli twice, and wrote the following report, which is reprinted from Action, 1978-1979, on a unique venture between the National Congress of Italian Canadians, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the local Italian municipal authorities.

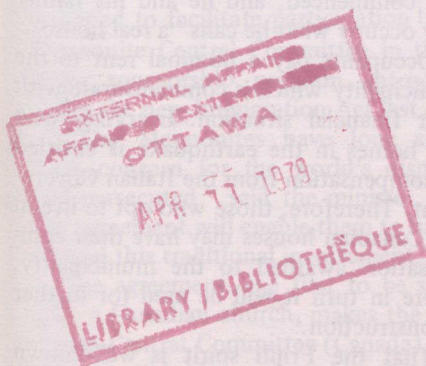
On April 29 and 30, 1978, a Canadian delegation was present to witness the official openings of five Canadian financed housing projects in five towns in the Friuli area.

One of these, Pinzano, is in the foothills of the Dolomites. It is a beautiful place in spring time. As the buses carrying the Canadian visitors inched their way around the last hairpin bend leading up to the town, the *case Canadese* (Canadian houses) were clearly visible from the road, bedecked with Canadian flags and red and white ribbons. What a contrast to

my first visit here in January, when only two foundations were laid, and Pinzano looked depressing in the rain.

At Taipana, high up in the mountains close to the Yugoslav border, we were touched to see tiny girls waving home-made Canadian flags attached to twigs. All of us were moved by the outpouring of gratitude and friendship extended to us at each stop.

The leader of the Canadian delegation, Multiculturalism Minister Norman Cafik, was visibly emotional in his speeches; Minister of Health and Welfare Monique



In Taipana, villagers thank Minister of State for Multiculturalism Norman Cafik.

Thirty years ago today...

Canada was one of 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington. One year later, it helped found the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (which now has 15 member countries).

Apr. 4/79

Bégin hit the right note when she addressed one group as *cari amici* (dear friends) and delivered her speech in Italian. Jacques Couture, Quebec's Minister of Immigration, abandoned his formal speech and replied spontaneously to the welcome offered by the Italian officials. Ontario's Health Minister, Dennis Timbrell, remarked on the reconstruction that had taken place since his first visit shortly after the earthquake.

Generous response

Immediately after the disaster, the response in Canada was generous. Canadians, mostly of Italian descent, donated over \$2.5 million; the Federal Government gave \$1.3 million; the government of Ontario, \$500,000; the government of Quebec, \$75,000; British Columbia, \$42,000; and Alberta, \$34,000.

As a rule, CIDA is barred by Canadian law from assisting countries that do not qualify as impoverished, as defined by world *per capita* income scales. By a motion of Parliament, \$1 million was made available through a special fund for relief and reconstruction to deal with this emergency situation. An additional \$300,000 has since been pledged.

The National Congress of Italian Canadians (NCIC) was given the task to administer these funds, as well as those raised by the Italian societies across Canada.

According to NCIC President, Dr. Laureano Leone, "the Friuli project is historic because it marks the first occasion on which all the Italian associations have joined forces to work together".

To the financial contributions, ranging from \$2.73 from a little boy's piggy-bank in Toronto to individual donations in five figures, must be added the services and time given by the members of the organizing committee, who ensured that all conditions set down in the contracts were adhered to.

Another member of the committee, Senator Peter Bosa, who was born in Friuli, explained that after consultations in Canada, fact-finding trips to Friuli and discussions with local authorities, it was decided to replace some of the homes that were destroyed.

To avoid delays and to place control over the houses in the hands of local officials, deeds of gift were signed in Udine in April 1977, by NCIC officials and the mayors of the five towns involved.

This produced what the Italian Min-

ister of Public Works Gaetano Stamatii called a notable example of co-operation and solidarity.

New houses

Contracts were awarded to three Italian-based construction companies. Of Canadian design, the houses resemble bungalows. The basements are of anti-earthquake reinforced concrete. As an added precaution, each house is built on a concrete slab. The walls are of plywood overlaid with a special compound which is moisture-resistant. The finish has a stucco-like appearance, and the houses are painted in a range of shades from pale amber to yellow. Considerable national interest was shown in the timber frame construction process which is unusual in Italy. The Canadian houses are the first permanent dwellings to be completed in the earthquake zone.

In addition to the 30 houses at Pinzano, there are 59 at Forgaria, and 92 at Venzone — where almost all of the original houses were destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.

The Canadian-funded senior citizens' residence at Taipana is now home to 45 elderly victims of the earthquake, and the 40-unit "Social Residence" at Bordano houses both old people and young couples.

Following the disaster, the homeless were quartered in tent cities. These have since been replaced by temporary houses provided by the Italian Government.



Over 1,000 people were killed and 150,000 made homeless in the earthquake.



Rather than a senior citizens' home, Bordano opted for a "Social Residence" housing both old and young people.

Some people are living with relatives. Others are housed in resort areas where hotel space is being used for the emergency.

The \$4.5 million donated by Canadians will provide permanent housing for approximately 1,000 people. Applicants are assessed on their need. One of these, widowed 79-year-old Maria Bira, was overjoyed because she obtained a place in the senior citizens' residence in Taipana. Maria's house was destroyed, and she was left with only her nightclothes and a blanket.

Pietro Collaviz of Pinzano felt doubly fortunate. He was one of 700 villagers given employment when work on the project commenced, and he and his family now occupy what he calls "a real house".

Occupants pay a nominal rent to the municipality which is commensurate with their financial situation. Everyone who lost homes in the earthquake is entitled to compensation from the Italian Government. Therefore, those who opt to live in the Canadian houses may have their compensation awarded to the municipality, where in turn it will be used for further reconstruction.

That the Friuli spirit is well-known was evident when Prime Minister Andreotti's representative at the openings, Under-Secretary Bressani, declared that all Italians needed the famous Friuli spirit.

For further information contact: Mariano de Marinis, The National Congress of Italian Canadians (N.C.I.C.), 141 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 1109, Ottawa, K1P 5J3 Canada.

Mexico/Canada career training

Up to 20 Canadians will be offered career-related training and experience in Mexico as part of the 1979-1980 Canada-Mexico Exchange Program for young specialists and technicians.

Training, which will begin in late September, will vary in length from four to 12 months.

The program, created by a formal bilateral agreement signed by Canada and Mexico in 1973, is designed to provide young Canadians and Mexicans with career-related training and experience and the opportunity to learn about each other's culture.

In Mexico, Canadians with related academic backgrounds can take training in fields such as: anthropology (social and physiological); archaeology; architecture (urban planning and development, conservation and restoration, low-cost housing); museology; social medicine (sociology); and tourism (planning and development of sites).

The National Council for Science and Technology in Mexico (CONACYT) selects young Mexican specialists and technicians for training in Canada. Canadian companies will be asked to provide training for the Mexican candidates.

Mennonites sponsor refugees

Minister of Employment and Immigration Bud Cullen has announced an agreement designed to facilitate participation by the Mennonite Central Committee in the refugee sponsorship program, introduced under the new Immigration Act last April.

"The Mennonites have long shown their concern for the world's displaced and persecuted," said the minister, "and this agreement will enable them to further expand this traditional involvement."

The agreement, the first to be signed with a Canadian church, makes the Mennonite Central Committee (Canada) legally responsible for sponsorships involving its member groups across Canada.

The elimination of red tape will promote more sponsorships, which are in addition to cases considered under the Government's regular refugee program. Mennonite groups are now ready to receive about 500 refugees under this agreement.

The agreement also introduces a system

under which the Mennonite Central Committee and the Federal Government can share the commitment with respect to more difficult refugee cases. The Government will provide financial assistance and other services usually offered to refugees, and local constituent groups will supply special services, such as arranging day care for a working mother or finding special accommodation for someone who might otherwise be refused entry.

"It is my hope," said Mr. Cullen, "that this agreement with the Mennonite Church will serve as an example for other national church organizations and voluntary agencies, encouraging a wide spectrum of Canadians to become personally involved in helping those less fortunate than ourselves."

Law of the Sea Conference

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Marc Lalonde, and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo LeBlanc are heading the Canadian delegation to the eighth session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, now meeting in Geneva until April 27. J. Alan Beesley, Canada's High Commissioner to Australia, is Deputy Head of the delegation.

The eighth session of the Law of the Sea Conference is focusing on the major unresolved issues related to the establishment of an international system for the exploitation of the resources of the deep seabed and the definition of the outer edge of the continental margin. Discussion is continuing on delimitation of maritime boundaries between adjacent or opposite states, marine scientific research, rights of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged states and settlement of disputes.

Earlier sessions of the Conference have brought about general agreement in favour of the principle of the common heritage of mankind, the 200-mile exclusive economic zone and freedom of transit through straits used for international navigation.

For Canada, the Conference has provided multilateral endorsement of the 200-mile fishing zone and the 12-mile territorial sea and contributed to increased acceptance of enhanced coastal state jurisdiction over pollution from ships,

particularly in ice-covered Arctic waters. The resurgence of the fishing industry in the Maritime provinces has resulted from the influence of the Conference.

The Canadian delegation is, therefore, working towards the adoption of a comprehensive treaty essential to Canada's vital interests, as well as to global peace and security.

Aluminum foils explosions

A Canadian company has developed a system for handling chemicals, oils, and other flammable products that prevents these and similar substances from exploding, even when they are aflame.

Called Explosafe, the anti-explosion system involves packing containers designed for use with flammables, with a layered, cellular honey-comb-like structure of expanded metal mesh called Explofoil. The material is manufactured from a thin aluminum foil and, when installed in a gas tank or other container, has the effect of dividing the container into more than 20,000 cells *per* gallon of liquid stored. Yet the foil itself displaces only 1 per cent of the fuel volume of the tank.

Principles

The system is based on three very simple principles. To stop flammable material exploding one must reduce the reaction temperature; break up the moving flame; and increase the vapour/air ratio through evaporation. In practice, this has the effect of forming a fine film on the aluminum foil strands, thereby shifting the mixture out of the flammable range.

The idea originated with Joseph Szego, a Hungarian inventor and owner of an aluminum foundry in the Thirties. He later immigrated to Canada and approached Vulcan Industrial Packaging Limited of Rexdale, Ontario, as a possible manufacturer for the product.

In 1976, the company introduced the Explosafe containers to the public in three common sizes, and by 1977 it was selling the Explofoil to other manufacturers to make anti-explosive containers.

Today, the market for the Explosafe system is virtually unlimited. Wherever flammable liquids or gases are used, transported or stored, the system can add an enormous safety margin. For industrial and consumer gasoline containers, outboard and inboard marine use, motor

vehicles, construction equipment, railway tank cars and trucks — the potential is enormous, says the manufacturer.

Military use

Government and military interest in the system is also encouraging. Many military vehicles use it now, and soon it will be installed in underground hazard areas in Ontario mines.

Tests performed by the Canadian and U.S. Governments show that Explosafe containers may safely be subjected to severe vibration, and that containers and tanks holding highly explosive vapour mixtures can be safely repaired and subjected to welding and brazing without danger.

Andy Szego, son of the inventor of Explosafe, and manager of research and development for Vulcan, says the installation of Explofoil in large road transport fuel tankers would eliminate the weight shift in transit that causes many highway tanker accidents. Continuing tests with thinner foils may allow a reduction in displacement, making the system attractive for commercial airline use.

(More information may be obtained from Alcan News, Alcan Canada Products Ltd., Box 269, Toronto, Ontario M5K 1K1



16.7 per cent, an increase that raised the share of profits in net national income from 13.6 per cent in 1977 to 14.4 per cent in 1978. This is about the average of the past ten years. The increase in profits occurred despite a deceleration in output per person employed, a phenomenon which typically accompanies the maturation of the business cycle. Profit growth was particularly evident in export-oriented industries such as wood, paper, machinery, and metal fabricating, and at least part of these profit increases can be attributed to gains arising from the devaluation of the Canadian dollar, which increases the Canadian dollar price of commodities that are priced in world markets.

While employment gains were strong in 1978, a slowdown in the increase of average weekly earnings helped to reduce the rate of growth of labour income. Prices of consumer goods and services, as measured by the implicit price index for personal expenditure, rose more quickly than average earnings did.

Real personal expenditure on goods and services, which was restrained by price and interest rate increases, grew only moderately in 1978, despite the stimulus of direct tax cuts early in the year and indirect tax cuts later in the year.

The lower sales tax rates in most provinces for at least six months of the year strongly affected the reduction in price of most taxable goods relative to other goods and services. Together with the relatively rapid price increases for non-durables and services, particularly food and energy, consumers were induced to purchase durable and semi-durable goods at the expense of other goods and services.

Gross fixed capital formation remained the major restraining influence in 1978, with the volume of investment virtually unchanged from 1977. Residential construction was again the major source of weakness, as declining housing starts through most of 1978 and a very strong price increase of 9.5 per cent, owing to a sharp increase in wood prices, reduced real activity in this sector by 4.8 per cent.

Non-residential construction was weak throughout the year, resulting in a real increase of 2.4 per cent in 1978; severe weather conditions early in the year, and a considerable amount of strike activity in the construction industry afterwards contributed to the sluggish performance. The implicit price index declined noticeably from the rate evident in previous years.

Gross national product — 1978

Gross national product for 1978 increased 10.3 per cent to a level of \$231.8 billion, states a report recently published by Statistics Canada.

As in the previous year, external influences dominated economic developments in Canada in 1978. While real final domestic demand increased only 2.1 per cent, real exports were up 8.5 per cent; this increase accounted for about half of the total increase in the volume of output, and had a positive effect on profits and employment in export-oriented industries. The over-all contribution of the foreign sector to real growth was reduced somewhat by a 4.1 percent increase in the volume of imports, which rose as a proportion of real GNP despite an increase of 12.7 per cent in import prices.

The decline in the international value of the Canadian dollar was partially responsible for the rise in import prices and for a fairly substantial increase in the Canadian dollar prices of exports which are priced in world markets. The dollar

weakened throughout 1978, falling by 6.8 per cent against its American counterpart and 9.5 per cent against a trade-weighted index of ten major currencies. The net effect of the resulting price movements was a decline in the terms of trade — that is, the ratio of export to import prices — to 1.03 from 1.07 in the previous year. The deterioration in the terms of trade more than offset the improvement in real net exports, and the current dollar balance of trade in goods and services worsened by about \$0.7 billion. The current dollar balance results in a substantial increase in real external debt and this may have acted to restrain domestic expenditure. The gain in production then, and employment resulting from the decline in the dollar may have been obtained partly at the expense of lower domestic expenditure.

Profits, personal spending

The importance of external influences on the economy was reflected in the movements in factor incomes that occurred in 1978. Corporate profits before taxes rose

News of the arts

Business investment in machinery and equipment in current dollars rose over 11 per cent in 1978. The heavy reliance of this sector on imports partly explains the very rapid 11 percent rise in the implicit price index, leaving investment in machinery and equipment virtually unchanged in real terms.

Exports, imports

Unusual circumstances on a quarter-to-quarter basis, particularly related to strikes and the stockpiling of goods in both Canada and the U.S., obscured the underlying trend in exports and imports; on an annual basis, the 17.4 percent increase in merchandise exports was concentrated in continued healthy American demand for investment-related materials, particularly in construction, as well as paper and automotive products. These three sectors contributed well over \$4 billion to the increase in exports. Exports of newsprint, lumber, most other paper products, and aluminum continued their rapid advances of 1977. Machinery and equipment industries recorded export growth of about 30 per cent, while the gain in automotive products was particularly evident for trucks and motor vehicle parts and accessories. The rapid rise of industrial production in the U.S. and the continued decline in the international value of the Canadian dollar also contributed to the rapid export growth.

The 17.3 percent growth in current dollar merchandise imports in 1978 represents some strengthening in real terms after allowing for a 12.7 percent rise in import prices. Imports of goods related to machinery and equipment and motor vehicles including parts accounted for most of the rise in imports. Fabricated metal products, particularly related to iron and steel, also exhibited some strength in 1978, while oil and metal ore imports were high in the latter part of the year. Most of the current dollar increases in food products represented higher prices, especially for fruits, vegetables, and beverages. Geographically, despite the greater devaluation of the Canadian dollar against most European currencies relative to the American dollar, import growth was stronger from European nations than from the U.S., while the obverse was true for exports. These relative movements in trade suggest that real demand forces have had a greater impact on exports and imports than relative price movements, and the full benefits of a lower Canadian

dollar in terms of increased competitiveness for exports and import-substitution have not yet been realized.

The non-merchandise trade-account deficit increased in 1978, but the rate of increase has slowed since 1976. A decline in the net travel expenditure abroad, related to the sharply higher cost of travel abroad following the devaluation of the Canadian dollar, and a slowdown in the rate of growth of interest and dividends paid abroad were the major contributing factors to the slightly improved picture for the non-merchandise account.

Riding on air with the Peace River hoverferry

The Peace River winds through Northern Alberta in calm, majestic solitude. Some 650 km north of Edmonton it interrupts Highway 697, down which roll trucks loaded with grain, gravel and cattle. By crossing the river there one avoids a lengthy detour, but no bridge exists. In winter, the traffic simply drives down one bank of the river, crosses on the ice, climbs the other bank, and continues down the highway. For summer crossing, the province provides a ferry, but when the ice is breaking up in spring and forming in autumn the river is impassable by boat.

Last winter, however, an unusual craft, capable of ferrying cars and trucks across broken ice, open water and land, began trial operations. The pressure generated by fans blowing air downwards underneath this hovercraft, though less than that needed to blow up a toy balloon, is enough to lift it and a fully-loaded tractor trailer about half a metre above the river surface. To cross the river, winches on the hovercraft's deck pull it along between two fixed cables slung from bank to bank. Within nine minutes a truck can drive on board, be hauled across the 600-m wide river, and drive onto the other side.

Two-year tests

The prototype was designed by Hoverlift Systems Limited of Calgary. The two-year field test on the Peace is jointly funded by the National Research Council (NRC) and the operator, Alberta Transportation.

"There have been the kind of teething troubles you expect with any prototype," says NRC's Howard Fowler. "Winch problems, spray skirt problems and the

Total revenue of all levels of government combined (excluding intergovernmental transfers) rose 8.7 per cent in 1978. This slowdown was the result of lower growth rates in personal direct tax collections and indirect tax revenues offsetting higher growth rates in direct corporate tax revenues and government investment income.

With total expenditure by all levels of government increasing 11.6 per cent, the deficit of the government sector increased from \$5.4 billion in 1977 to \$8.2 billion in 1978.

like. The river did an unusual thing too — it formed an ice jam so rough and high that the ferry couldn't clear it. A crew of men worked with chain saws in 50 below temperatures to trim the peaks down. But now most of the snags have been overcome, and the ferry is carrying traffic."

Because they consume fuel just to hover, air-cushion vehicles obviously cost more than conventional vehicles to operate. The ferry will be in continuous use for two years, except when the natural ice bridge has formed or during the worst of break-up, when house-sized lumps of ice float downstream. At the end of this test the results will be published as a study on the economics of a hovercraft ferry.

Many uses

Air-cushion technology has many possible applications. "A hovercraft ferry has been ordered for use in British Columbia," says Ray Dyke of Hoverlift Systems, "and the Alberta government has expressed interest in using another four. But we've also built an air-cushion platform for the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority — it doubles the icebreaking capacity of the ship to whose bow it is attached — as well as designed a large icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard which uses air-cushion technology. You can use air-cushion platforms to haul heavy loads over many kinds of rough terrain — getting fire-fighting equipment out to a remote pipeline, for instance. We're receiving a lot of enquiries, particularly from oil and logging companies."

(By *Séan McCutcheon* for *Science Dimension*, Vol. 10, No. 4, 1978.)

Special program for gifted children

Several thousand gifted children in British Columbia will be getting special attention in classrooms this autumn as the result of a project, funded by the provincial government, at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) faculty of education.

Professor Stanley Blank is co-ordinating an enrichment program for the children, who have been a "woefully-neglected" segment of the North American school population until recently.

Between now and mid-August, Professor Blank, six graduate students and two consultants will develop a curriculum for gifted children in grades four, five and 12, which will be introduced as a pilot project in several British Columbia school districts in the next school year.

Concurrently, the UBC team will develop a special kit of material designed to train school teachers in the techniques of dealing with the children.

Professor Blank estimates that out of the province's total school population of just over 500,000 pupils more than 50,000 could be described as gifted. "The definition of the term 'gifted' varies widely," he said, "from the narrow 2 per cent who are in the near-genius category up to 12 or 15 per cent who will score high on IQ or academic achievement tests and who also exhibit talents in other areas such as leadership or creative thinking, or in specific areas of achievement such as the performing or creative arts."

The ability of gifted children to synthesize knowledge and evaluate problems is the general characteristic which distinguishes them from others, he believes.

Increase complexity of problems

"In the past," he said, "teachers tended to meet the needs of the gifted child through acceleration, by keeping him occupied through an increased work load. Anything to keep him from getting bored, which leads to behaviour problems and, in many cases, dropping out.

"Allowing the gifted to skip grades was another way of dealing with them. For a very few gifted children, those at the near-genius level, this probably makes sense. But for the majority of the gifted, removal from their peer group can result in some pretty maladjusted kids who are simply not able to cope with the social and emotional environment of an older age group."

It's ill-advised to push the children ahead by a year or two, he said, when the opportunity exists to provide them with greater depth of knowledge using as a basis the curriculum of their peer group.

"Enrichment involves increasing the complexity of the problems presented to the gifted child," he said. Enrichment for a grade five child studying language arts for instance, would mean using grade five curriculum to expand his or her awareness of non-verbal communication — body language, for instance — so he understands that people communicate in a variety of ways.

Professor Blank also believes that gifted children have maximum opportunity to develop their potential when they associate with others like them. "The gifted," he said, "need to be challenged and engaged at their own level, so I'm in favour of enrichment centres in each school district where the gifted can be brought together for so many hours *per week* or for specified periods of time.

"The centres don't have to be schools specifically set aside for the gifted. I think in terms of a mini-school, a school within a school, where the gifted have their own classes, but interact socially with other students."

Vital resource

On a long-range basis, Professor Blank would like to see enrichment programs developed for all school levels from kindergarten to grade 12. "Why shouldn't we have 'think tanks for kids', as well as centres of intellectual challenge in the fine arts, music and drama?" he suggested.

"In the past," he said, "we've tended to treat the gifted as though they were an ordinary group of individuals who had no special needs. In many cases, even the gifted haven't been aware of their own abilities and as a result we've lost them as drop-outs.

"What we've really lost is a vital resource, a resource for future leadership by a group of people who have special talents and abilities. And we need leadership as never before in all spheres of our society, from the obvious ones such as government and education to the performing and creative arts.

"So I'm delighted that the provincial government has decided to fund this project, which could have incalculable benefits for British Columbia. It's especially heartening that they've chosen to do it in the UN Year of the Child, which places emphasis on education."

(From UBC Reports, Vol. 25, No. 4.)

Carriages donated to the National Museum



Six horse-drawn carriages made in England between the years 1880 and 1900 have been given to the National Museum of Science and Technology by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).

The carriages were donated to the ROM in 1971 by Miss A. Sheila Boyd, whose family were pioneers in the Trent Valley area.

(Above) The Boyd family set out on a camping expedition in the Gull Lake area in Ontario, circa 1898. Mossom M. Boyd, original owner of the carriages, stands at right.

News of the arts

Troupe tours Britain and Ireland

Theatre Passe Muraille of Toronto will tour Britain and Ireland from April 23 to June 24, under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs. The nine-week tour will include over 60 performances in more than 25 communities in England, Scotland and Wales.

The company will present two of its most successful collective creations: *The Farm Show*, a lively examination of agricultural life in southwestern Ontario, and *1837*, a play which chronicles an armed uprising by English, Scottish and Irish immigrant farmers and craftsmen in Ontario for independence from the British Empire.

Passe Muraille develops its dramatic material by living in and working with a community, whose acceptance of the play that emerges determines the show's success. On the tour, the company members will live with the local people, who, in turn, will influence the two productions.

"On this tour, we are attempting to connect these two plays with the specific interests of an audience, just as we do in Canada," explained Artistic Director Paul



Scene from 1837.

Thompson. "Therefore, *The Farm Show* will be performed in several agricultural regions such as Devon, Herefordshire and Wales, while *1837* will tour Scotland and Ireland." As in Canada, many of the performances will be presented in unconventional locations. For example, the tour will open in a barn near Beaford, a small farming community in Devon.

\$20-million program to help book publishers

The Federal Government will provide almost \$20 million over three years to establish a new and extensive Canadian Book Publishing Development Program, Secretary of State John Roberts announced recently.

Mr. Roberts said, "The key element of the program will provide \$3 million in development-cost assistance during 1979-80 to stimulate increased spending by eligible Canadian-controlled book publishing firms on editorial, design, typesetting, and other pre-publication costs incurred in the development of Canadian-authored books. This parallels a wide range of existing income tax measures and direct assistance programs in other industries whose objectives are to expand research and development.

"\$1.5 million will be available to publishers during 1979-80 to support the production of original Canadian textbooks and related learning materials which could not be published on a commercial basis.

"The rest of the funds will be used to help improve the management of Canadian companies and the distribution of

Canadian books; for a program to improve the professional skills of the industry; and for continued support for the foreign marketing of books by Canadian authors," he said.

Funding for the program, which is expected to reach \$6.8 million in 1980-81, will for the third year be conditional upon effectiveness of the program during its first two years of operation.

Participation will be open to companies that are 75 percent Canadian-owned and effectively controlled by Canadians. However, all Canadian-based companies, regardless of their nationality of ownership and control, will be eligible for assistance in improving professional skills and foreign marketing.

The Canada Council, whose ongoing support of the industry will be complemented by the new program, will provide \$3.85 million in 1979-80 to finance translation grants, promotion assistance, publication subsidies for Canadian-authored books of cultural value, and for the purchase and distribution of Canadian books to institutions.

Canadian play now a film

Paper Wheat, a feature documentary film about the stage play created by players of the 25th Street House Theatre in Saskatoon, had its *première* in Sintaluta, Saskatchewan, February 21. The settlement, near Regina, was the home of E.A. Partridge, a pioneer of co-operative grain marketing and a hero in the play about the wheat pool movement.

The stage show, which has played to capacity houses in major Canadian cities as well as the rural areas of the prairies, is a lively and humorous re-creation, in word and music, of the settlement of the province and the tribulations of grain marketing.

The film will be offered to television networks in Canada and abroad, and prints will later be available from film libraries.

Arts briefs

A cantata lost for nearly 250 years will have its first modern performance at McGill University, Montreal, this autumn. The unique manuscript of the *Cantate pour le jour de la Saint-Louis*, by eighteenth-century French composer Philippe Rameau, was discovered by Professor Mary Cyr of McGill's Faculty of Music when she came across a letter written in 1777 by Rameau's son, while she was in Paris last summer. It described the work well enough to enable her to find it among the anonymous eighteenth-century manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The National Museum of Man purchased at a Christie's auction in London, England a few months ago, \$139,160-worth of "ethno-graphical" art that has been out of the country for more than 150 years. Among the collection of rare items is a Naskapi painted skin coat dated 1770 (\$28,840) and an early eighteenth-century Great Lakes Indians quilled head-dress (\$43,260). The purchases were made with a special grant from the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Canadian Cultural Property Import and Export Review Board.

Anne-Claire Poirier's film for the National Film Board, *Mourir a Tue-Tete*, has been officially selected for this year's Cannes Film Festival.

News briefs

Brian Peckford, Newfoundland's former Mines and Energy Minister, became the province's new Premier recently, after winning the Conservative Party leadership March 17. He succeeds Frank Moores, who in January announced his intention to retire.

An agreement for staging the 1981 Canada Summer Games was signed recently in Thunder Bay, Ontario by representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments and the chairman of the host society. Construction of the new Thunder Bay Canada Games sports complex is scheduled to begin this spring.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada has awarded 165 grants for a total of \$4.8 million in support of university research in three areas of national concern: energy, environmental toxicology and oceans.

Federal Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé has written to the Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Dr. Pierre Camu, suggesting creation of a task force to develop criteria governing the portrayal of women on radio and television. Although "it is not up to the Government to decide what is permissible in broadcasts and advertisements", the minister wrote, she did say the image of women portrayed by the media was an important target of a national plan aimed at the promotion of the status of women in society and elimination of discrimination they have traditionally faced.

The Export Development Corporation has arranged an \$8.5-million (U.S.) loan to help finance the sale by Westinghouse Canada Limited of Hamilton of electric power equipment to Colombia.

Interprovincial Pipeline of Toronto and Edmonton has announced a \$14-million (U.S.) expansion of oil pipeline

to permit increased deliveries to refineries in eastern Canada and parts of the U.S. The expansion will affect a 480-km section of pipeline between Chicago and Sarnia, Ontario.

The Law Reform Commission of Canada has proposed that the definition of "cheques" be changed to include cheques issued not only by banks but by trust companies, credit unions and other institutions accepting deposits. Under a bill to amend the *Bank Act*, the word bank would be redefined to include such institutions.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism has been awarded a "U-STAR Tourism Recognition Award" by the United States Tour Operator's Association (USTOA) "for excelling in the promotion of tourism with professionalism and integrity". The award, the first by the USTOA to a national tourism organization, was made during the association's recent annual conference and marketplace in New York. Last year the 25 USTOA active member organizations served more than 1.2 million people on tours, earning approximately \$1.8 billion.

The popular conception that the size of Canada's public service is growing much faster than the total labour force is rejected as a myth in a report released recently by the Institute for Research on Public Policy. The 188-page study, entitled *Public Employment and Compensation in Canada: Myths and Realities*, also casts suspicion on the belief that wages paid by government are higher than those of private business for comparable work.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February fell to 7.9 per cent from 8.1 per cent in January, Statistics Canada reports.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. has received a \$2.8-million contract, awarded by the Canadian International Development Agency, to supply Nepal with three Twin-Otter aircraft.

Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd. will build 500 steel hopper cars worth \$21 million for North American Leasing Co. of New York.

The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board has authorized the production of an additional 60,000 barrels a day of crude oil, bringing output to 1.2 million barrels a day. The increased output is to help avoid a potential emergency situation in feedstock supplies at some U.S. and eastern Canada refineries.

The Ontario government has reopened mineral exploration on more than 3.75 million acres of land in the James Bay lowlands area, about 120 kilometres north of Timmins. The area contains large deposits of lignite coal, a peat-like mineral, as well as various industrial minerals, including silica sands and industrial clays.

A three-volume set of the reports of the Task Force on Canadian Unity, called *A Time to Speak*, was released for sale in late March by the Canadian Government Publishing Centre. The reports, summarizing the views expressed by Canadians during the task force hearings held across the country between September 1977 and April of last year, include opinions contained in 3,000 letters sent to the task force, headed by Jean-Luc Pepin and John Robarts.

Esso Resources Limited of Calgary plans to spend about \$30 million on each of two planned exploratory wells this summer off Canada's east coast, according to J.G. Livingstone, executive vice-president and director of Imperial Oil Limited of Toronto.

A strategy to develop a stronger automotive industry by encouraging new research and development has been announced by Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jack Horner, on behalf of the Board of Economic Development Ministers. Recommendations include: that the industry be reviewed on an annual basis and a report produced; that auto parts makers be given access to government funds through the Federal Enterprise Development Program, and that the Government study a proposal to give designated importers duty free entry of vehicles in return for placing work in Canada.

International Thomson Organization Limited of Toronto has made an offer of \$31 a share for 51 percent interest of Hudson's Bay Company of Winnipeg. The bid is valued at \$365.8 million.

Dr. Jacques Genest, the scientific director of the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, received the title of Master from the American College of Physicians of Philadelphia at its annual session in San Francisco on March 26. The title of Master, never before bestowed upon a Quebec doctor, is in recognition of a signal contribution in academic attainment, medical research and achievement as a clinician.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.