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Old age security – possibility of international reciprocity

Over a half a million Canadian residents may eventually gain access to social benefits they have acquired overseas under a bill to amend the Old Age Security Act (OAS) which received second reading in the House of Commons on February 8.

Health and Welfare minister Marc Lalonde, who introduced Bill C-35, explained how the proposed amendments could improve the old age security program:

* * * *

I should stress that the proposed amendments will not alter three essential ingredients in the old age security program. Firstly, it is universal and non-contributory, based exclusively on residence in Canada; secondly, the pensions it provides become payable at age 65 at the earliest; and thirdly, it is the building block of the Canadian retirement income system.

The amending legislation improves the program in three important ways. Firstly, it authorizes the inclusion of the OAS program in reciprocal agreements, which is not now the case; secondly, it proposes one single eligibility criterion instead of the three current ones; and thirdly, it establishes partial pensions, which do not exist at present. In order that the retirement plans of current residents of this country not be jeopardized by the amending legislation, Bill C-35 further provides for a transition period of 40 years before the same, single eligibility requirement applies to everyone.

Portable pensions possible

I should like, first of all, to comment on the OAS proposals and the reciprocal agreements. The amendments would authorize inclusion of the old age security program in international agreements which would make benefits portable to and from countries with which Canada may negotiate agreements. Such agreements, would directly benefit a large number of immigrants to this country, especially those who have chosen to retire in Canada to be near their children and grandchildren, many of whom find their foreign pensions frozen at the level at which they were on the day they left their country of origin, and eroded by inflation and devaluation. The central purpose of

reciprocal international agreements is to protect migrants who spend portions of their working lives in more than one country. Such people cannot always meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the mandatory social security programs to which they have contributed.

Such countries as France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, from which a large number of Canadian immigrants have come in recent years, have expressed interest in having reciprocal social security agreements with us and in preliminary discussions among officials have formulated proposals involving varying combinations of Canadian programs. Until now Canada has had no adequate response to such proposals since OAS, the building block of our retirement income system, could not be taken to the bargaining table.

The great majority of social security benefits of other countries are tied to participation in the labour force and, in a few cases, to periods of residence in the country concerned. The amount of individual pensions payable by such countries is usually a function of the number of years of contributions or residence which the applicant has accumulated at the time he or she reaches pensionable age.

In addition, most countries place explicit restrictions on the payment of social security benefits outside their national boundaries. Some pay their benefits only to beneficiaries having accumulated a certain minimum period of contributions or residence. Others do not pay them abroad to anyone, or restrict such payments to their own nationals, or do not pay adjustments in their benefits unless they have a social security agreement with the country to which their beneficiaries migrate.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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Both the current OAS legislation and Bill C-35 have a restriction of the first type I have mentioned, that is to say, the requirement that the beneficiary must have lived in Canada for a minimum of ten years after age 18 to receive the pension of Canada, or 20 years before it can be exported. In much the same manner as Canada would want to protect the benefits which as many as half a million of its current residents have acquired abroad, so would other countries wish to provide, through reciprocal agreements, for the easing of restrictions which Canada places on its own benefits, such as the 20-year rule for export of the OAS pension.

Even if the current OAS program could be taken to the bargaining table, it would be unusable in reciprocal agreements because of the "all or nothing" principle embodied in it and the different weight which attaches to the same number of years of residence in Canada. In contrast, the corresponding programs of other countries yield benefits which are prorated to periods of contributions or residence.

Under international social security agreements of the standard type, the restriction which governments place on the payment of their benefits outside national boundaries is overcome by adding together periods of contributions or residence in each of the contracting states to determine eligibility under the programs of one or both countries. Once eligibility is established, each party to the agreement calculates, under its own rules, its share of the composite benefit payable and pays it direct to the beneficiary. By such techniques, contracting states can make social security benefits portable across their boundaries and thereby protect the social security credits of their residents who work in the other country for part of their lives.

Canada/U.S. citizens

International agreements also provide for the removal of duplicate coverage. Honourable members will be familiar with the difficulties experienced by Canadian residents working in the United States and, conversely, with the situation of United States citizens working in Canada. For the time being, most people in this situation have to contribute both to the Canada Pension Plan and to the United States social

security scheme. A reciprocal agreement with the United States Government would resolve such anomalies.

Negotiations necessary

I would caution all honourable members that Bill C-35, while it authorizes inclusion of the old age security program in international agreements, will not, in and of itself, give automatic access by residents of Canada to the social security credits acquired in foreign countries. It takes two to negotiate. The precise terms which other countries will be prepared to offer under agreements, and the details of what they will require of Canada in return, will of course become known only when negotiations begin.

For its part, the Government of Canada will be prepared to enter into formal negotiations with other interested governments as soon as Bill C-35 becomes law and we can take the OAS program to the bargaining table. I might note in passing that international agreements on social security exclude all income-tested programs. The guaranteed income supplement will therefore never be part of international agreements.

Eligibility requirement

Secondly, I should like to say a few words about the single eligibility requirement which is found in the proposed bill. Forty years hence, the same, single eligibility requirement will apply to every resident of Canada: the OAS pension will be acquired a year at a time, through residence in Canada after age 18, over a maximum 40-year period. Partial pensions will be available for those with less than 40 years' residence based on one-fortieth of a full pension for each year of residence based on one-fortieth of a full pension for each year of residence in Canada. A minimum ten years of residence will be required for any pension to be payable in Canada, and a minimum 20 years for it to be payable outside the country.

At present, residents of Canada can qualify for their old age pension at age 65 in one of three ways. First, by living here for a full 40 years after age 18. This produces a pension for which you can apply from anywhere in the world and which is payable anywhere in the world. Secondly, one can qualify by living here without interrup-

tion for the ten years immediately preceding application for the pension, normally from age 55 to age 65. This produces a pension payable in Canada for which you must apply from Canada and which becomes exportable after the pensioner has completed 20 years of residence here.

Finally, if an applicant has been absent from the country during the ten years preceding application for the pension, he or she can make up each year of absence by three years of residence between ages 18 and 54. This produces a pension payable in Canada only, unless the applicant can meet the 20-year export rule. The point to bear in mind, however, is that in order to qualify under this "three for one" provision the applicant must live in Canada for a full year before applying for the pension.

Unfortunately, the application of these eligibility criteria frequently results in inequitable treatment of beneficiaries. Let us take the case of someone who was born in Canada, lived and worked here and, say for health reasons, left the country at age 55. The 37 years of residence in Canada after age 18 which such a person had completed would not entitle the applicant to anything unless he or she were to re-establish residence in Canada for a full year before applying for the pension. On the other hand, a non-Canadian, say, again, for health reasons, can choose to come to Canada at age 55, live here until age 65, claim and get a full pension.

It will be clear from the foregoing that the current eligibility criteria, combined with the "all or nothing" principle, can favour applicants having had as little as ten years association with Canada over others who spent most of their working lives here. The amendments which the Government has put forward will resolve this anomaly by giving each year of residence in Canada exactly the same value for OAS purposes and by establishing partial pensions. After the transition period, 40 years will draw a full forty-fortieths pension. Twenty years will be worth half as much as a full pension, and ten years a quarter as much.

In preparing the amendments which are now before us, one of the Government's concerns was to ensure that no one currently in receipt of the pension, or in the process of building up their entitlement to it, would be affected by

Letter of thanks from U.S. President

United States President Jimmy Carter sent the following letter, dated January 29, to Prime Minister Trudeau regarding emergency exports of energy to the U.S. owing to shortages because of severe cold weather:

* * * *

"I would like to express my deep appreciation for your Government's quick and generous response to the energy problems brought on by our unusually cold weather. I am all the more appreciative because I know that Canada too has been experiencing a particularly hard winter. I hope that your generous gesture will typify the way both our Governments will address important matters of common concern in the years ahead. I am looking forward to meeting you on February 21 and to consulting with you on a variety of subjects of mutual interest."

Summary of energy exports

On January 19, a press release was issued by the National Energy Board announcing the export of 50,000 barrels of heavy fuel oil from Canadian Fuel Marketers of Windsor, Ontario to the Detroit Edison Company of Detroit, Michigan and of 15 billion cubic feet of natural gas from TransCanada Pipe Lines Ltd. to the Columbia Gas System Inc of Delaware.

Irving Oil Ltd., Saint John, New Brunswick was granted leave to export 210,000 barrels of middle distillate oil to Asiatic Petroleum of New York City on January 21. A further 170,000 barrels were licensed on January 26.

Another press release was issued on January 28 reporting the licensing of 2.4 million American gallons of liquified natural gas from Gaz Métropolitain, inc. to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania Inc.

Four licences were approved on January 28, allowing the movement of: (1) 50 million cubic feet a day of natural gas to move from the Westcoast Transmission Company Limited to the Northwest Pipe Line Corporation of Salt Lake City; Utah; (2) 210,000 barrels of middle distillate to Wyatt Petroleum of New Haven, Connecticut from Irving Oil Ltd. of Saint John; N.B.; (3) 35,000 barrels of heavy fuel oil from Canadian Fuel Marketers, Windsor, Ontario to Detroit Edison Company,

Detroit; and (4) a pre-delivery of 100,000 barrels of light crude oil from second quarter allocations to Murphy Oil Corp. of Superior, Wisconsin.

On February 3, Westcoast Transmission Company Limited applied for, and was granted, an emergency export order to deliver 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas to Northwest Pipe Line Corporation.

TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. will export an additional 1.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas over 30 days to the Niagara Mowhawk Power Corporation; and Canadian-Montana Pipe Line Co. will export an additional 3 billion cubic feet to the Montana Power Co. of Butte, Montana, for a 60-day period from February 11.

At that date, 23.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas, 1,565,000 barrels of oil products, and 3,786,900 barrels of propane had been approved for emergency exports to the United States.

Yukon celebrates Sourdough Rendezvous

Citizens of Whitehorse, capital of Canada's Yukon Territory, return to the days of the Gold Rush of 1898 in their annual celebration, Sourdough Rendezvous, which runs this year from February 21 to 27.

Bank tellers behind their wickets will be attired in satins and sequins, pink garters beneath their flowing skirts. Businessmen will wear boaters and bowlers, and preen their newly-grown beards. Men in parkas will emerge from the woods to drive their dog teams and snowmobiles.

Indians, kids, and old sourdoughs



Visitors and residents dress up in Klondike Gold Rush costumes during the Sourdough Rendezvous celebrations in February.

will all join to make the colourful week of activity what residents call "the best tonic to get rid of cabin fever."

Visitors arriving at the airport will be introduced immediately to the fun by the Keystone Kops, led by Judge I.M. Tough. The judge will set up a court to impose a fine on returning Yukon males who have failed to sprout fuzz on their chins in honour of the occasion, or returning Yukon females who fail to flash a garter.

Throughout the celebration, Kops will roam the streets and bars of Whitehorse in search of offenders. The Kops themselves have been the butt of pranks over the years. Their portable jail, which is towed by a Keystone Kops paddy-wagon, has twice been found chained and padlocked to the ceiling of one of the hangers at the airport.

The Sourdough Rendezvous program will also include a display of Yukon native crafts, an 80-km cross-country snowmobile race, an ice fantasy, gambling and dancing. The Can-Can is performed by the Sourdough dancing girls.

A sourdough pancake breakfast, a flour-packing contest with contestants carrying up to 360 kg on their backs, men's and women's novelty snowshoe races, a junior one-dog pull, and a fly past, will all end with a huge parade.

Another interesting event will be the annual Meller Drammer, written each year by Robert L. Dunlap.

Themes have included a riverboat docked at Whitehorse, the first farm in the Yukon, and the first school for wayward girls in the Yukon. The play is traditionally set in the period of the 1898-99 Gold Rush.

Whitehorse, situated on the banks of the Yukon River 80 km above the 60th Parallel, is a bustling little city (population 11,215) surrounded by mountains, lakes and forests. The streets are wide and paved and, although facilities are modern, there is still much evidence of its pioneer origins.

Northern phone link-up

Every community in the Northwest Territories will have basic local and long-distance telephone service within five years, Minister of Communications Jeanne Sauvé announced recently.

Under the Northern Communications Assistance Program (NCAP) the Fed-

eral Government will contribute \$9 million over the next five years to cover the capital costs of facilities between communities required to bring reliable long-distance telephone service to all communities in the Northwest Territories. Bell Canada and Canadian National Telecommunications will invest a similar amount in capital and operating funds.

The provisions of NCAP will not affect the Yukon because all Yukon communities already have basic telephone facilities.

The long distance links to be funded through NCAP will be provided either through satellite ground stations or ground-based circuits, whichever is more economical.

Mrs. Sauvé said that the program was limited to providing only telephone service to these communities, because of current limitations on federal spending. However, satellite ground stations will be designed to accommodate radio and television service, which can be added later as funds become available.

The minister said the new program, in extending facilities to about 28 of the most remote communities in the country, would establish Canada as first among all Arctic nations in the provision of public telephone service.

British broadcasting studied

Jeanne Sauvé, the Canadian Minister of Communications, was scheduled to visit London from February 10 to 12 to discuss the structure of broadcasting in Britain.

Mrs. Sauvé, herself a former journalist and broadcaster, was to meet Lord Harris, the Minister of State at the Home Office responsible for broadcasting, Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Sir Charles Curran, the director general.

The following day her itinerary included a meeting with Lord Annan, chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into the Future of Broadcasting, and a visit to the headquarters of the Independent Broadcasting Authority to see Lady Plowden, the chairman, and Mr. Brian Young, the director general.

After leaving London, Mrs. Sauvé planned to attend a ministerial meeting of the European Space Agency in Paris.



Libby Joy

Margaret Trudeau (left), wife of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, had tea with Rosalynn Carter (right), wife of United States President Jimmy Carter, at the White House on February 2. She was in the U.S. capital at the invitation of S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to attend the opening of the exhibition of Canadian art "14 Canadians: A Critic's Choice" at the Hirshhorn Museum and

Sculpture Garden. The exhibit and a speech by Northrop Frye, distinguished literary critic, were part of an 11-week series of displays and discussions of twentieth century Canadian culture. While in Washington Mrs. Trudeau presented Joan Mondale, the wife of Vice-President Walter Mondale, who also attended the exhibition, with a painting by J. Fenwick Lansdowne, and was interviewed on a local TV program.

Post-secondary students' report

A study of post-secondary students in Canada recently completed by the Department of the Secretary of State concludes there is still wide inequality of participation in post-secondary education in Canada despite easier access to financing for today's students.

The report, released on January 20 by Secretary of State John Roberts, is based on information from about 60,000 post-secondary students in a recent survey carried out by Statistics Canada. It includes a wide range of statistics on students' choices of programs and institutions, their incomes and expenditures and their socio-economic background.

The report also found that, while females comprised 50 per cent of all post-secondary students, they were more likely to enrol in community colleges rather than in universities.

Students whose fathers had some university education formed a much higher proportion of all students in universities than in community colleges. The analysis also suggested that students whose fathers had little

formal education tried to make up later in life for the educational opportunities they had missed. Such students formed a higher proportion in part-time rather than in full-time programs.

University students still appear to be drawn mainly from relatively high-income families. Nearly 40 per cent of full-time undergraduates reported fathers' incomes of \$15,000 or more; however, for Canada as a whole, only 20 per cent of the married males had incomes of \$15,000 or more.

Cost and availability of finance did not seem to be the most important factors in generating the wide differences in participation in post-secondary education. The report suggested however, there were wide inequalities in the patterns of financing for students in different parts of Canada. For example, students in the Atlantic provinces generally paid higher tuition fees and took higher loans than those in other parts of the country.

The report, titled *Some Characteristics of Post-Secondary Students in Canada* is available from the Education Support Branch, Department of the Secretary of State, Ottawa, Canada.

Canada/UN co-operation on Latin American refugees

The Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Bud Cullen, who recently met with representatives of the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America to discuss the plight of refugees in South America, assured them of his concern. "The solution of this problem," he said, "depends on an international effort and Canada will continue to play a vigorous part in close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)."

Mr. Cullen agreed with members of the group that every effort should continue to be made to expedite the processing of cases referred to Canada by the UNHCR. He emphasized that refugees selected by Canada in Latin America were not required to meet the selection criteria applied to regular immigrants. He also assured the group that all cases referred by the UNHCR to Canada's offices in Latin America were carefully considered in the light of the definition of refugee status embodied in the United Nations Convention on Refugees.

While Canada processes applications as quickly as possible, Mr. Cullen reminded the group of the importance of adequate safeguards to ensure that terrorists and criminals did not enter the country. (Since the inception of the special program for refugees from Latin America, only some 10 per cent of applicants have been refused on security grounds.)

Mr. Cullen emphasized, also, that he was receiving frequent reports and was monitoring closely events in South America. "Should the situation of Latin American refugees deteriorate, Canada in co-operation with the UNHCR will consider further measures," he said.

Canada has accepted more South American refugees for permanent resettlement than has any other country. As of December 31, 1976, the admission of 5,360 persons had been authorized, including 91 political prisoners together with their 200 dependents who have been accepted under a special program for political prisoners in Chile. This special program continues. The Government has spent about \$2.4 million to date to assist South American refugees in establishing themselves in Canada.

Advanced field radio

Canadian-designed, portable field radios, described as "the most advanced in the world", have been bought for the Canadian Armed Forces to augment long-range communications needs, particularly in hilly or built-up areas.

The radios were designed to Canadian Forces specifications by Collins Radio of Canada of Toronto. The contract is for \$6.7 million.

The radio, called the Army-Navy Portable Radio Communications 515, has a range of 15 miles when operating on field antenna, and an unlimited range when connected to a more sophisti-

cated antenna system. It can operate on 280,000 channels, including those used by ships and aircraft.

Including field pack, frame and 25-volt nickel cadmium battery, it weighs 12.6 kilograms (27.8 pounds). The battery may be recharged by a hand-crank attachment while operating in the field.

Project officer for the new set, Lieutenant Robert Lavigne of National Defence headquarters Ottawa, says "it's been three years in development, and some very recent electronics were incorporated, making it the most advanced field radio in the world."

A number of countries are interested in the radio, including Germany, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia and Iran.

Old temporary building goes under the hammer

The first of the Cartier Square "temporary buildings" is being torn down this month under a Public Works plan to demolish all the temporary buildings in Ottawa, Public Works Minister Judd Buchanan announced recently.

There is a story in Ottawa about a public servant who spent his days wandering through the Cartier Square temporary buildings with a file under his arm. He had given up looking for someone who could answer his question and was concentrating on trying to find an exit, quite an achievement for someone not working there. If his ghost is still there, it is hoped it is not in "B" Building on Lisgar Street,

which is now starting to disappear.

"B" Building, as it has been known since the Second World War, was built for the Air Force for \$559,000 in 1942-43. The last National Defence unit to occupy it was the personnel group which has been moved to L'Esplanade Laurier — a new building nearby.

The contractor has until July to clear the site. Plans call for the remaining two buildings on Cartier Square to be torn down this summer.

The term "temporary" was used to describe these buildings as they were entirely constructed of wood, and designed primarily for use during wartime. Out of a total of 15 such buildings four have been removed.



Canada-Spain-IAEA trilateral safeguards agreement

Canada and Spain signed a treaty on February 10 with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

This procedure completes the bilateral arrangement Canada negotiated last year with Spain bringing safeguards into full conformity with the principles announced by the Government in December 1974 regarding nuclear supplies of Canadian origin.

The trilateral treaty deals with the safeguarding and verification of Canadian source nuclear material sold to Spain under contracts in effect before December 1976.

Conifer radiation sickness

The harmful effects, if any, of exposure to very low levels of radiation from radioactive materials may not show up in people for years, but in pine trees they manifest themselves quickly – and dramatically.

That discovery was made by a University of Toronto (U of T) radiobiologist, Dr. Gordon M. Clark, during experiments completed recently at a dump for radioactive waste at Port Hope, Ontario. Clark found, somewhat to his surprise he says, that 300 one-year-old spruce and pine seedlings he had planted there showed readily observable deviations from their normal growth patterns, after only one month of exposure. What's more, a row of Scotch pine that had been growing there for years were less than half the size of a similar row of Scotch pine planted about the same time nearby. And the pine cones looked much smaller. Close examination, in fact, showed that much of the seed in the cones had not matured.

Subsequent laboratory tests at the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories at U of T confirmed what Clark had immediately suspected: the conifers were exhibiting a kind of radiation sickness. "There is little doubt about it," Clark says. "These trees are very sensitive to radiation."

That conclusion is of more than academic interest. Radiation at the dump site, where radium and uranium residues were discarded from 1949 to 1954, is very weak – outside the inner

fenced area at least – but it is still strong enough to be far in excess of what is considered a safe level for people. About one month's continuous exposure in the inner area would bring a person's dose up beyond the permissible level. What Clark foresees is the possibility of giving the Christmas tree a new job: that of radiation watchdog.

"It would be an ideal dosimeter – a biological dosimeter," he says. "And not only is it a good measurement system, it's also something people can relate to. A pointer going over a scale to indicate radiation – that doesn't mean anything to most people. But show them a pine cone – they know what that is."

The correlation between the level of radiation exposure and the trees' growth, in fact, appears so telling and consistent that Clark expects to be able to draw up so-called dose-response-curves that will make it possible to determine fairly precisely the radiation dose received on the basis of such factors as root and stem growth and biomass of pine seedlings.

Clark says he hopes to continue his investigation at the dump site, and may extend the research to small mammals. Another possible area of investigation is the study of the effects of radiation on aquatic life.

More Canadian place-names

The name of Calgary in Alberta borrowed from the Scottish Island of Skye, was bestowed by a homesick Canadian mounted police officer in memory of the parish of his birth, says Marcus Van Steen in another article on Canadian place-names in *Canadian Scene*.

And what could be more Canadian than Sudbury? This northern Ontario city has become world famous for nickel, of which Canada is the major world supplier. The name has nothing whatever to do with mining or industrial activity of any kind. The original Sudbury is a tiny rural community in Suffolk, England, and originates in the Saxon words *suth beri*, or South Fort. The name was brought to Ontario by James Worthington, construction chief, when the CPR was being laid in Northern Ontario in 1882-83.

In Quebec, St. Lin is a charming little community in the county of L'As-

somption on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, downstream from Montreal. It is of historic interest as the birthplace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the great liberal prime minister, but its name comes from Rome. St. Lin, or St. Linus, is mentioned in the New Testament as one of the brethren who stood firm in the face of persecution. Eventually, he succeeded St. Peter as Bishop of Rome and head of the Christian Church.

Heroes remembered – but rarely

It is perhaps symptomatic of our national character that so few of our place-names commemorate national leaders or military heroes. When Canadian towns are named after people, the name usually commemorates an early settler, surveyor, a postmaster, or a remote royal personage. One exception is Brockville, Ontario, named after the hero of the Battle of Queenston Heights in the War of 1812. And of all Canadian fathers of Confederation, only Sir George Etienne Cartier is commemorated, in Cartierville, Quebec.

On the other hand, a city in British Columbia was named after the commander of an invading force that was attempting to seize a part of Canada for Spain. This was in 1789, after the great British explorer James Cook had visited what is now known as Vancouver Island, and in trading with the Indians had discovered the magnificent sea-otter pelts. This brought a rush of traders to the Pacific coast which had already been claimed on behalf of Spain, although Spanish rule at the time did not extend north of California.

A Spanish fleet sailed into Nootka sound, seized a number of English trading vessels and landed an army under the command of Dom Pedro Alberni. He set about securing Spanish rule over the area, which remained in effect until 1794 when a British fleet under Captain George Vancouver reached the West Coast and persuaded Captain Alberni to pack up and go home. The site where the Spanish captain had established his headquarters is called Alberni, still a port of some importance.

Captain Vancouver's name is remembered in the island and in British Columbia's great port city, but strangely enough no name recalls Captain Cook, who attracted European attention to the area.

News of the arts

Dictionary of Canadian biography

Volume IX of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography – Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* contains biographies of persons who died between 1861 and 1870, including James Fitz-Gibbon, soldier, Abraham Gesner, scientist, Laura Secord, heroine, Simon Fraser, explorer and Thomas Molson, brewer, distiller and merchant.

The dictionary, prepared and published with the help of a grant from the Canada Council, is one of the most ambitious works of scholarly publishing ever undertaken in Canada. Published in both languages (the French edition is expected in February) through the co-operation of the University of Toronto Press and the Presses de l'Université Laval, it represents the work of many historians, research assistants, editors and translators across Canada. It contains résumés of from 400 to 12,000 words, of biographies of the numerous politicians, explorers, educators, artists and legendary heroes who contributed significantly to Canada's history.

Volume IX is the fifth to appear since the beginning of the project in 1959. It has been preceded by volumes I, II and III (years 1000 to 1770) and X (1871-1880). Editors hope to complete the twelve volumes which make up the first stage by 1983. The second stage will deal with the twentieth century.

The \$482,564-grant, awarded this year under the Canada Council's major editorial grants program, brings to \$1,142,954 the amount awarded to the dictionary by the Canada Council during the past several years.

Canada Council arts support doubles

The Canada Council helped bring the arts to more people in more places during 1975-76 than ever before, says the Council's nineteenth annual report, just released. During the three-year period since 1972-73, Council assistance reached more than twice as many cities, towns, and settlements.

The Council also draws attention to the growth in the range and variety of the arts over the past few years, calling it "a phenomenon of central importance which is not as widely recognized as it should be."

In the year under review, the Council spent \$30.4 million on grants and services to the arts, compared to \$25.3 million for the humanities and social sciences.

Theatre

Among the arts disciplines, theatre received the largest subsidy, a total of \$7.2 million in support of 102 theatre organizations in 38 towns, double the numbers in 1972-73.

In music, a total of \$6.96 million was shared by 153 organizations in 52 towns (68 organizations in 20 towns in 1972-73). The grants enabled orchestras to give more concerts at home, as well as on tour. Some, such as the Atlantic Symphony and the Quebec Symphony, performed between 25 and 30 per cent of their concerts out of town, often in places not served by a resident orchestra. "Another indicator of the upsurge of interest in the arts across the country," says the report, "is that more and better amateur choirs are coming to the Council's attention." In 1975-76, close to 50 choirs received grants, four times as many as in 1972-73.

Publications

The Council's assistance to writing, publication and translation amounted to \$5.2 million. In three of these programs alone (block and project grants to book publishers and aid to periodicals) grants were given to 149 publishers in 38 towns and cities across Canada, compared to 116 publishers in 19 centres three years ago. In addition, 135 institutions in 74 communities received grants for public readings by Canadian writers during 1975-76, compared with 37 institutions in 27 towns in 1972-73.

Visual arts

The Council spent a total of \$3 million, including support to 62 art galleries, museums and workshops, more than twice as many as in 1972-73. In addition, the Council's Art Bank purchased \$756,000-worth of Canadian contemporary art for rental to government departments and agencies. In film and video, \$1.3 million was given in 99 grants to individuals and organizations in 27 centres.

In the field of dance, where Council assistance totalled \$4.1 million, changes in policy enabled the Council to

assist eight new organizations for the first time and to provide substantial increase to four other contemporary dance companies.

Anglo-American libraries adopt new cataloguing rules

Representatives of the British Library, the National Library of Australia, the National Library of Canada, and the U.S. Library of Congress met at the Library of Congress recently to discuss co-operative aspects of cataloguing. One of the major topics was the impact of the impending promulgation of two major compilations of standards approaching the final stages of editing.

The first of these is the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR II). The latest information for AACR II indicates that simultaneous publication of the unified text is unlikely to occur before mid- or late 1978.

The four libraries agreed that the minimum allowable period for "gearing-up" was six months, preferably longer. This would mean they would not be ready to implement AACR II until mid-1979 at best. The libraries further agreed it would be highly desirable to make the adoption of AACR II coincide with the cumulation patterns of their printed bibliographies and catalogues, which are based on the calendar year. They accordingly recommended machine input of new titles in conformity with AACR II should begin in late 1979, based on the lead time required to prepare and process entries appearing in the first 1980 issuances of printed and machine-readable cataloguing records.

The second compilation in progress is the nineteenth edition of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 19) which is scheduled to appear in 1979. The four libraries felt strongly that adoption of DDC 19 should also be targeted for January 1, 1980, for substantially the same reasons cited as for AACR II, but also because simultaneous adoption of AACR II and Dewey 10 would ease conversion efforts individually and co-operatively.

Accordingly, the four libraries announced immediately their concurrence in a joint strategy for implementing AACR II and Dewey 19 effective January 1, 1980.

Old age security (Continued from P. 2)

the changes in the rules. The OAS target population is composed of current and former residents of Canada. Within this group, those under the age of 25 when Bill C-35 becomes law and who have 40 years ahead of them to build up their entitlement to a forty-fortieths pensions will be governed by the new rules.

A choice of rules

Current or former residents of Canada who are 25 and over when Bill C-35 comes into force will have the choice of the most beneficial set of rules when they apply for their OAS pension at age 65. Thus, no one — absolutely no one — who has some claim to an OAS entitlement by virtue of current or former residence in Canada will be deprived of the opportunity to earn a full pension. For the purposes of the act, current residents include those holding a valid immigrant visa when the amendments become law. They, too, could choose whichever set of rules is more advantageous to their particular circumstances.

It should be noted, as well, that receipt of a partial OAS pension will give access to the income-tested guaranteed income supplement, as the full pension currently does, and will be adjusted quarterly to the consumer price index, as is the case for the full pension now. Similarly, the younger spouse of an OAS pensioner will continue to be entitled to consideration for the spouses' allowance benefits; the OAS equivalent portion of such benefits will be calculated in the same manner as the OAS pension itself.

People who have never resided in Canada and who do not hold an immigrant visa will henceforth be governed by the new rules and earn their pension

a year at a time, as will every other legal resident of Canada. Others — current and former residents of Canada — may qualify for pensions under the new law, while they have no entitlement at all under current legislation, or can receive a partial pension earlier than they could have received a full one.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I should like to comment on other features of the amending legislation. Bill C-35 also includes an amendment which will exempt family allowance benefits as income for the purpose of calculating entitlement to Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and spouse's allowances.

When the GIS program was developed in 1966, family allowances were not taxable; consequently, they were not considered part of a GIS applicant's income and had no effect on the amount of the supplement payable. However, when family allowances became taxable in 1974, the benefits automatically counted as part of one's income in calculating eligibility for GIS. Henceforth, family allowances will not be counted as income for calculation of benefits under the GIS or the spouses' allowance programs. Approximately 10,000 pensioners, it is estimated, will benefit from this change.

A number of other amendments have been introduced in the bill to facilitate the proper administration of the program and to prevent abuse of the legislation originally passed by Parliament. As an example, the amending legislation will prevent the payment abroad, for more than six months, of OAS benefits to persons who have ceased to reside in Canada and who do not meet the 20-year export rule. Technically, such persons can now defeat the 20-year rule for export of the pension by returning to Canada for one day every six months. Bill C-35 corrects this situation.

* * * *

Let me emphasize that we have taken great care in the phasing in of the new residence requirements. No one in receipt of a pension will have that pension reduced. People under 25, who have 40 years ahead of them before retirement, will have the opportunity to qualify for a 40/40ths pension under the new rules.

Those 25 and over, current or former residents of Canada, will be able to

claim their pension at age 65 under the most beneficial set of rules. Current residents, for this purpose, include people holding immigrant visas when the act is enforced.

Older immigrants to our country will earn their pension one year at a time, as will every other resident of Canada.

Pensions (partial and full) will be adjusted quarterly in line with increases in the consumer price index. Partial pensioners will be able to receive the full guaranteed income supplement, if their other income is low enough to qualify them for this. And in the small proportion of cases where there may still be a deficiency in income to meet basic living requirements, the individuals concerned will have access to the income support programs administered by provincial governments and funded jointly by the provinces and the Federal Government.

* * * *

News briefs

- All Canada's chartered banks reduced their prime rate to 8.75 per cent from 9.25 per cent effective February 1. This follows a half-percentage point reduction by the federal Bank of Canada in its bank rate to 8 per cent.
- The Federal Government introduced legislation on February 7 to put into effect new cost-sharing arrangements worked out last December with the provinces for health and post-secondary education programs. It would replace the Fiscal Arrangements Act, a five-year statute that governs shared-cost programs between Ottawa and the ten provinces, which expires March 31. Prime Minister Trudeau and the provincial premiers agreed last December to turn over more tax-raising power to the provinces along with a system of cash payments in return for the provinces taking over more responsibility for the programs.
- The number of United States residents visiting Canada in 1976 dropped by 6.8 per cent from 1975 totals to 32.2 million. Canadian tourism spokesmen have said the decrease was partly because Americans stayed home during their bicentennial celebrations. Residents of overseas countries visiting Canada rose to 1.6 million, an increase of 18.8 per cent, largely owing to the Montreal Olympic Games.

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