

# Canada Weekly

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## Modernization nod one feature of Armed Forces year

During 1977, the Armed Forces were able to see their way clear to acquiring new fighter aircraft and new warships — to add to their new maritime patrol aircraft and battle tanks now on order. Also ordered are new armoured vehicles, new air-traffic-control radar systems and modern facilities for the naval dockyard at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In March, Cabinet authorized the Defence Department to obtain proposals from manufacturers for new fighter aircraft to replace the *CF-101 Voodoos* and *CF-104 Starfighters*, which entered service in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the *CF-5s* which will be converted to advanced trainers.

Six companies are involved: the fighters being considered are the Grumman *F-14*, McDonnell-Douglas *F-15* and *F-18A*, General Dynamics *F-16*, Northrop *F-18L*, all of the United States; the *Panavia Tornado* from a British-German-Italian consortium and a version of France's Dassault Bréguet *Mirage*.

The aircraft will be bought "off-the-shelf" at an estimated cost of \$2.3 billion in 1977 dollars, spread over about ten years. Apart from the operational requirement, an important factor in the selection

of an aircraft will be the extent of industrial, technological and economic benefits offered by the manufacturers and the source nation.

## Canadian patrol frigates

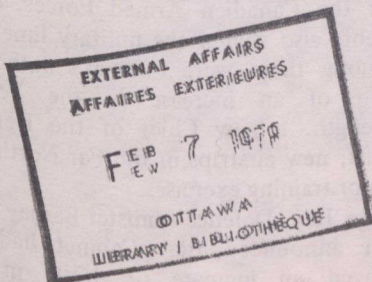
On December 22, 1977 Cabinet authorized the Defence Department to proceed with the first stage of a four-year program to obtain new fighting ships for the Navy.

The department, in concert with shipbuilders, will complete the design and detailed costing of the first of a new series of six Canadian patrol frigates. Construction of the frigates, which would replace the six 20-year-old St. Laurent Class destroyers, should begin in 1981 after assessment of the first phase is completed.

Defence Minister Barney Danson said a Canadian shipbuilding program would have a significant impact on the Canadian economy, producing directly and indirectly, about 4,500 man-years of employment annually for eight years.

## Patrol aircraft and tanks

The main contract to build 18 *CP-140 Aurora* long-range patrol aircraft was signed with Lockheed Aircraft Corpor-



HMCS Fraser is one of six, aging St. Laurent Class destroyer escorts which will be replaced by new Canadian patrol frigates when the construction phase of a shipbuilding program gets under way in 1981.

Ten years ago today, Yellowknife became the capital of the Northwest Territories.

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ation in July 1976. The program is on schedule, and the first *Aurora* should arrive at Canadian Forces Base Greenwood, Nova Scotia, in May 1980. All deliveries are to be completed by March 1981. Projected Canadian industrial benefits will be considerable. As of September 30, the industrial benefits in this country were \$81.8 million.

The first of 128 new German-built *Leopard C-1* battle tanks will be delivered to the Canadian Forces in July 1978, replacing outmoded *Centurions* in service for 25 years. The Royal Canadian Dragoons, the armoured regiment of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group on NATO duty in West Germany, will get 85 and the balance will be used for training at CFBs Gagetown, New Brunswick and Borden, Ontario.

The *Leopards* are being manufactured by Krauss-Maffei in Munich, and delivery should be completed by August 1979. In the interim, 35 of these tanks are on loan to the brigade in Germany. More than 4,000 *Leopards* are in service in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway, and they are also being manufactured for the Australian army.

#### Armoured vehicles

Also ordered in 1977 were 350 general purpose armoured vehicles for regular and reserve units. They are being manufactured by General Motors Diesel Division



Male and female members of the Army Reserve practise beach assaults during the Student Summer Employment Assistance Program at CFB Petawawa, Ontario. Over 300 Canadian militia members trained with Regular Force units in West Germany in 1977.

in London, Ontario, for delivery beginning in October 1978.

The new Swiss-designed, six-wheel air-transportable vehicles are being made in three models. There will be 152 *Cougar* fire-support vehicles with a 76-mm gun on a British *Scorpion* turret; 179 *Grizzly* armoured personnel carriers and 19 *Husky* maintenance and recovery vehicles.

Delivery of 489 new five-ton and 2,848 smaller trucks was completed in 1977.

#### New radar and dockyard

In February, new air-traffic-control radar was installed at CFB Bagotville, Quebec, starting a four-year program which will equip military air bases with modern radar, replacing 25-year-old equipment.

Full terminal radar and control systems will be installed at major bases, and smaller bases will get modern solid-state precision approach radar, or Quad-radar, which fulfills the functions of primary surveillance and precision radar. Two mobile air-transportable Quadradars also will be updated.

Early in December the Government approved construction of new facilities for the Ship Repair Unit at Halifax. The program, beginning in 1979, will be implemented over six years.

#### Search and rescue

The year was another busy one for the Canadian Forces Search and Rescue

(SAR) squadrons and Rescue Co-ordination Centres. Military aircraft flew 7,326 hours on SAR missions up to November 1, 1977 compared to a total of 8,827 hours during 1976. The co-ordination centres handled 7,062 incidents in the first ten months of the year, 112 more than for all of 1976.

Federal marine SAR services were added to the Forces' commitments, and a program to improve and add more facilities began early in the year. No. 103 Rescue Unit was established at Gander, Newfoundland, and four *Voyageur* helicopters are being taken out of storage. Two will be added to each of the SAR squadrons on the east and west coasts.

#### Military highlights

While the acquisition of major new equipment and facilities were all part of 1977 for the Canadian Armed Forces, other events also shared the military limelight. Among them were Cabinet's authorization of an increase in the Forces' strength, a new Chief of the Defence Staff, new airstrips in the Far North and major training exercises.

In July, Defence Minister Barney Danson announced that Cabinet had approved an increase of 4,700 in the strength of the Forces — from 78,000 to some 83,000. The increase, beginning in 1978 and phased over the next few years, will reduce prevailing problems of over-tasking. No new units are planned, and the additional troops will be absorbed at



The first of 128 new German-built *Leopard* battle tanks (top), will be delivered to the Canadian Forces in July 1978, replacing the outmoded *Centurions* in service for 25 years.

under-manned bases and stations, with about 400 slated for Europe.

The Regular Force is supported by about 21,000 men and women in the Reserve Force. There are about 16,000 in Mobile Command's Militia, 3,000 in the Naval Reserve, 1,200 attached to Communication Command's reserves and approximately 800 are in the Air Reserve.

Reserve Force men and women regularly are assigned to temporary duty in Canada, Europe and with peacekeeping forces in the Middle East.

### Another Arctic strip

An airstrip built by the Canadian Forces at Eskimo Point, 195 kilometres north of Churchill, Manitoba, was turned over to Transport Canada in September. Others have been built at Whale Cove, Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset in the Northwest Territories, and one at Pond Inlet will be completed this year.

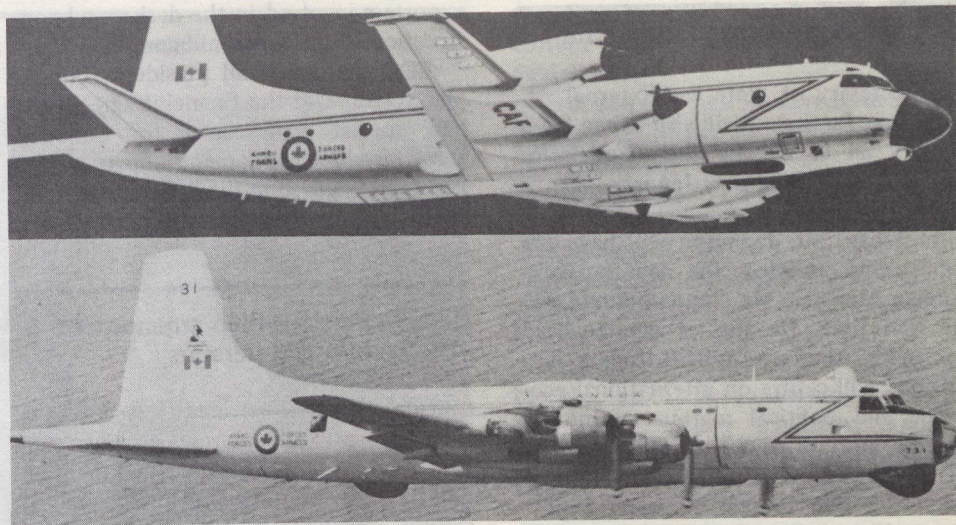
Also in the Arctic, the Canadian Forces surveyed approximately 70,000 square miles of the southern portion of Baffin Island. The project was carried out in co-operation with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to produce more accurate topographic maps of the area. Coastal and most of the interior waters also have been charted and aeronautical charts and aerial photographs covering all of Canada now are available.

### Training exercises

The Canadian Forces participated in several large-scale NATO and other training exercises during the year in Canada and Europe, on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and in the Norwegian, Mediterranean and Caribbean seas.

In "Northern Viking", troops tested leadership and survival skills in the Arctic and built 50 survival cairns near northern airstrips and along well-travelled routes. In the Caribbean and off the west coast of South America, Canadian and other naval forces were involved in concentrated combat exercises called "Springboard" and "Southex".

NATO's STANAVFORLANT (Standing Naval Force Atlantic) comprising five warships from Britain, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United States, took part in an operation which kept Soviet ships and submarines under surveillance during a Soviet exercise in the Norwegian Sea. Maritime Command aircraft also participated.



Delivery of 18 newly-designed CP-140 Aurora long-range-patrol aircraft, (top) begins in May 1980. They will replace the 26 CP-107 Argus, which entered service 19 years ago.

In "Locked Gate" in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and "Rimpac", off Hawaii, Canadian ships and aircraft practised anti-submarine warfare and merchant shipping protection with other NATO ships and aircraft.

Seven NATO countries had more than 7,000 men, 60 ships and submarines and 250 aircraft in "Ocean Safari", practising methods of supplying Europe and keeping shipping lanes open in the event of a major conflict.

Exercise "Norply", scientific research and sovereignty operations in Hudson and Davis Straits, Hudson Bay and Baffin Island, were conducted again in 1977, and "Annapolis Valley" was the largest militia exercise in eastern Canada in the last decade. It was conducted near Millville, Nova Scotia, and 1,400 men and women from 18 militia units, supported by Regular Force troops, were involved.

In the skies over Canada, Air Command continued their participation in NORAD's "Vigilant Overview" series. Fighter aircraft were scrambled against simulated enemy bombers attacking over Alaska, northern Canada and along the east and west coasts in tests of the aerospace warning and defence systems.

Late in January 1977, the militia's Lincoln and Welland Regiment of St. Catharines, Ontario, were out in full force in an assistance to civil authority operation in the Niagara Peninsula, covered in heavily-drifting snow pushed by 80 kilometres-an-hour winds. A snow disaster had been declared, and eight hours after receiving the request, the regiment had pushed convoys through to all major communities in the area. The

troops rescued many stranded school children and motorists, providing ambulance service, delivering food, assisting police, etc.

### In Europe

CF-5 fighters from Mobile Command 10 Tactical Air Group in Canada, and tactical helicopters from Lahr, West Germany supported 16,000 allied ground troops in "Arrow Express" in Denmark.

In "Carbon Edge", troops from Canada, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the U.S. operated in a simulated wartime exercise at training centres at Hohenfels and Grafenwohr, West Germany. 1 Canadian Air Group, assigned to NATO's 4th Allied Tactical Air Force, flew close air support.

Using *Leopard* tanks under simulated combat conditions, crews from The Royal Canadian Dragoons at Lahr topped crews from Belgium, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States to win the Canadian Army Trophy in a gunnery competition at Bergen in northern Germany.

Part of the land force restructuring plan to provide a better balance of resources across Canada was the formation of the Special Service Force at CFB Petawawa, Ontario, in September.

The new Naval Officers Training Centre opened in Esquimalt, British Columbia, in September. Probably best known as HMCS *Venture*, it was the home of junior naval officers training from 1954 to 1966. It then became Officer School *Venture* for naval and air force officer training, and later, the Warrent Officers Academy.

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## Mr. Jamieson to visit Japan, China

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, will visit Japan from January 24 to 29 and the People's Republic of China from January 29 to February 3.

In Japan, Mr. Jamieson will have the opportunity to meet the new Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Sunoia Sonoda, for the first time. He also expects to hold talks with other government leaders. Discussions will centre on international economic and political matters of mutual interest and on a review of aspects of bilateral relations. During their bilateral talks, the two foreign ministers expect also to discuss nuclear safeguards.

The visit to the People's Republic of China will reciprocate that of Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua to Canada last autumn. The trip will give Mr. Jamieson the opportunity to follow up on the useful talks he had with Mr. Huang on the further development of bilateral relations between Canada and China and on important international questions. In addition to his discussions with Mr. Huang, Mr. Jamieson is expected to meet with other Chinese leaders.

Mr. Jamieson's trip takes place at the same time as the visit to Japan and China of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, which is under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, and he plans to attend one of the concerts given by the orchestra in each capital.

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## EDC finances sales to Poland

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has extended a \$285-million line of credit to Poland for the purchase of Canadian goods and services during the next two years. Sales will probably include mining, chemical and electrical equipment, hotels and marine products. The agreement, which was signed in December between EDC and Poland's Bank Handlowy W. Warszawie S.A., is an extension of a 1975 financing protocol.

EDC also announced the signing of financing agreements worth \$46.9 million to support the \$52.1-million sale of services, capital goods and equipment for Poland's Kwidzyn pulp and paper complex. The financing is in addition to that covering 13 export sales contracts valued at \$172 million and secured by Canadian

exporters involved in the design and construction of the three-mill complex.

EDC chairman and president John A. MacDonald said the financing agreements had special significance for Canada's forest-products equipment industry which has been engaged in the Polish project for more than two years.

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## Canada Pension Plan amendment affects divorced persons

Canada Pension Plan credits earned by a husband and wife during marriage can now be divided equally between them on divorce or annulment. This is one of several amendments to the CPP enacted in July last year that came into effect January 1.

The provision offers protection for retirement and disability and survivorship coverage to spouses who, by working in the home, did not contribute directly to the Plan.

The split of pension credits would cover all years of a marriage after the inception of the CPP in 1966, up to the year the spouses separated. However, they have to have lived together for at least three consecutive years during the marriage, and application for the division of pension credits must be made within three years of marriage dissolution. The provision applies only to marriages dissolved on or after January 1, 1978.

A number of more technical CPP amendments will also come into effect, including a provision which will allow up to 12 months retroactive payment of retirement benefits to all late applicants. Previously, these benefits were paid only to applicants over 70 years of age. Another amendment eliminates the reductions in benefits to orphans and children of disabled contributors in families with more than four children.

### Amendment not enacted

An amendment that will not come into force is a provision which would allow CPP contributors who leave the labour force to raise young children (up to age seven) to drop these years from their contributory period when establishing their entitlement to CPP benefits. The provision would have safeguarded contributors' eligibility for CPP disability and survivorship coverage and would have protected the amount of their benefits against the effects of several years of low or zero

earnings.

However, since major alterations to the Canada Pension Plan require the approval of two-thirds of the provinces of Canada containing two-thirds of the population, Ontario (with slightly more than one-third of the population) and British Columbia were able to veto the amendment.

Contrary to Ontario's findings, some actuarial studies have suggested that the provision would raise the required CPP contribution rate by less than one-third of a percentage point over the next 50 years.

Other provincial governments, and the federal and provincial advisory councils on the status of women, may eventually induce the Ontario and British Columbia governments to reconsider their stand.

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## Outstanding public servant

The Prime Minister recently announced that Sylvain Cloutier, Deputy Minister for Transport Canada, would receive the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service for 1977.

The Outstanding Achievement Award — a citation and an honorarium of \$5,000 — is granted under the Incentive Award Plan of the Public Service of Canada. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee made up of five prominent Canadians appointed by the Prime Minister from outside the Public Service.

Mr. Cloutier was appointed a commissioner of the Public Service Commission in 1965 and, from 1967 to 1970, he served as a deputy secretary to the Treasury Board. In March 1970, he was appointed Deputy Minister, National Revenue. He became Deputy Minister, National Defence, in 1971 and assumed his present position in 1975.

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## Last ship in Seaway

The St. Lawrence Seaway closed for the season on Christmas Day, although officially the system had closed December 15.

The last ship, about 2.45 p.m. Christmas Day, was the *Westwind*, a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, which had run aground near Sault Ste. Marie on December 13. She was refloated and brought up the rear as more than 80 ships raced to beat the winter ice.

## Italian and Canadian Defence Ministers meet in Rome



*Barney Danson, Minister of National Defence (left), on a visit to Italy from December 12 to 16 holds discussions with his Italian counterpart, Attilio Ruffini (right). The two ministers conferred, among other things, on matters related to NATO and defence procurements. Mr. Danson was received briefly by Prime Minister Andreotti and he met also with Italian Transport Minister Vito Lattanzio. Besides Rome, Mr. Danson visited Florence, Turin, Venice and the Friuli region, where he was warmly greeted by the authorities and members of the community in recognition of the aid Canada provided to that region after a major earthquake in 1976.*

## Anti-inflation measures to ease off

Amendments to the Anti-Inflation Act to provide for an orderly withdrawal of prices and income controls were introduced in the House of Commons on December 19 by Finance Minister Jean Chrétien. Included in the bill are amendments introduced last summer in Bill C-59 which was not passed before adjournment of the session.

The amendments introduced for the first time are intended to provide for a smooth transition as controls are withdrawn beginning April 14. The first of these amends the act to ensure that parties file information through their last reporting period, since 75 per cent of the companies and 64 per cent of the employees covered do not emerge from the program until the last quarter of 1978. The amendment enables the AIB, the Administrator and the Anti-Inflation Appeal Tribunal to continue in office as long as

necessary to ensure compliance with the act. It does not extend the actual period of controls beyond December 31, 1978.

This amendment also disallows the "AIB clauses" that have been written into contracts during the period of controls. These clauses, which entitle groups to higher compensation upon termination of the program, are counter to the objectives of the anti-inflation program and are considered unfair to those groups whose compensation plans do not include such conditions.

The other new amendment recommended to the House clarifies the definition of "compensation plan", which had been subject to differing interpretations between the English and French versions.

Amendments being reintroduced will:

- provide a maximum of 30 days for parties to request referral to the Administrator after receiving notice of an AIB recommendation;
- clarify the authority of the Adminis-

trator to issue orders dealing with past, current or expected contraventions of the guidelines;

- give the Cabinet 30 days to deal with petitions from parties affected by orders of the Administrator;
- deem compensation agreements to have been amended in line with recommendations of the AIB or order of the Administrator to prevent groups from receiving the higher level of compensation as soon as controls no longer apply;
- establish an effective date of December 16, 1975, for an Order-in-Council that brought under mandatory controls various groups which bargain in association.

## Nuclear waste sites now identifiable

Scientists from the University of Toronto have demonstrated a new technique for radiocarbon measurement, developed from a discovery last spring at the University of Rochester. The technique, which was confirmed independently at Hamilton's McMaster University, revolutionizes dating methodology by enabling the use of samples 1,000 times smaller than those studied in the past.

The breakthrough will permit testing of minuscule quantities of carbon from groundwater samples to determine encasement capabilities of underground storage areas for nuclear wastes.

Professor A.E. Litherland of the University of Toronto's Physics Department says, "The new method, which in my mind is a revolution in carbon-dating, has very important implications for archaeology, climatology and the authentication of art objects. The success is a tribute to research in nuclear physics by many scientists."

"Development of the technique attests to the value of the pure research which often has application far beyond the original area of study."

The testing compared findings of the old and new dating techniques on four geological samples with ages ranging from 200 to 40,000 years provided by the U.S. Geological Survey. The samples were taken from volcanoes and ice-age sites in North America.

Carbon-dating in the past required the use of relatively large samples of material. Under the old method, samples were converted into carbon dioxide and measured for radioactivity by geiger counter. Since

dating by this method caused the destruction of the whole sample, smaller milligram-size carbon objects of scientific or other value were not subject to testing.

The new dating capability means that the carbon from groundwater in deep mines and wells can be tested to determine if certain sites can safely retain nuclear wastes. Only sites containing old groundwater (30,000 years or older) are considered safe for nuclear-waste storage purposes. Using the new technique, scientists can now identify these sites.

### New social services funding

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has proposed a meeting with her provincial counterparts early in 1978 to discuss detailed arrangements for the federal-provincial sharing of social service costs.

Several provinces had requested more provincial flexibility and autonomy, and simpler administrative procedures than would have been possible under the proposed social services legislation, introduced in the House of Commons in June 1977. As a result, the Federal Government, in September, proposed a switch to block-funding from the cost-sharing approach. Under the block-funding proposal, federal contributions to the provinces for social services would be based on a formula that takes into account provincial population and economic growth rather than offering a percentage (approximately 50 per cent) of actual program costs. Health services have been made through block-funding since April 1, 1977.

Because of the need for fiscal restraint, Miss Bégin has advised the provincial ministers and territorial commissioners that \$132 million of the \$707 million originally proposed for 1978-79, can be made available only in 1979-80.

If the provinces agree, Ottawa intends to implement the block-funding arrangements by April 1, 1978 at a cost to the Federal Government of an estimated \$575 million during the first year.

The Federal Government now is contributing \$508 million under the welfare services provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan and the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act — both of which would be replaced by new social services legislation — to social services activities.

### Independent unions surveyed

Independent local unions are reluctant to use the strike weapon, believe in co-operative rather than adversary employer-employee relations, and support the Anti-Inflation Board's mandatory wage guidelines.

Nevertheless, according to a report on a national survey, to be published in the December issue of *The Labour Gazette*, they do not see themselves as "company unions" accepting substandard wages and working conditions.

The survey, believed to be the first of independent unions in Canada, was undertaken by G.S. Rejan, an associate professor in the department of management at Concordia University in Montreal, and W. Grigoleitis, a graduate student in business administration.

From the results, the researchers maintain that the independents cannot be dismissed as "employer-dominated and weak", perhaps because they hold out to the employer the threat of affiliation with a bigger and more powerful organization.

"Inequitable treatment today would push these unions into the camp of the more aggressive and militant unions to the detriment of the company," the researchers say.

Hence they exist "in the trend-setting shadow of the large dominant labour organizations, and reap the fruit not because of their outstanding abilities or employers' benevolence, but because of a realistic appraisal of the employers' alternatives".

The independents have been losing ground — representing 2.7 per cent of the labour force in 1964 but only 1.4 per cent in 1975.

Other findings of the research are:

- Union dues are lower than those of affiliated unions, but the level of service may also be lower.
- About 75 per cent of their employers "welcomed" the establishment of the independent union and 14 per cent expressed "indifference".
- The unions hold an "idealistic" view of employer-employee relations and a departure "from the inevitable adversary position normally associated with the mainstream of organized labour".
- They view themselves "as achieving in a harmonious way what others have to extract in an adversary climate".

### Himalayan school offers lessons in self-reliance, farm management

In the foothills of the Himalayas not far from Mount Everest there is a modern high school with 6,500 chickens on the roof. The students from poor Indian families learn mathematics not only in the classroom, but also by practising farm management.

The school's spirit is self-reliance and the driving force behind it is the principal, a Canadian Jesuit priest from Cape Breton who has spent 29 years in India, Father Murray Abraham.

The boys sell their farm products in the local village, Kurseong (near Darjeeling), and every rupee, every egg, every chicken is accounted for. Cows, pigs and goats are also raised at the school.

One year a vegetable garden was installed in raised beds on the playground. Produce was displayed with exhibits of other school projects at the annual exhibition, open to nearby villagers who benefit from the knowledge passed on by the boys.

Much of the equipment needed for the school projects is constructed in the school's carpentry and machine shops. The bamboo chicken coops were built there. But, more remarkable, the school itself was built by students. It replaces a leaky, ramshackle building that dated back to 1888.

Beginning in 1963, the boys took time from lessons each day to work at the excavation of the hillside and manufacture hollow bricks for the construction. In 1969 Father Abraham came to Canada to raise money for the \$570,000-project. The Canadian International Development Agency's Special Programs Branch provided \$100,000 in grants over four years.

Father Abraham's latest plan is to buy land from absentee landlords using funds from Canadian families that support the school, and then set up co-operative farms for the school's graduates.

Although he is grateful for the help he receives from Canadians, Father Abraham's emphasis on self-reliance has been the obvious key to surviving the difficulties of life in Darjeeling.

Ownership of life insurance by Canadians increased about 17 per cent in 1976 to a record \$257.2 billion, the Canadian Life Insurance Association reports.

# News of the arts



Büchner's own comment that "we are just puppets manipulated by unknown forces" was the inspiration for Jean Herbiet's interpretation of the play. (From left to right) Richard Pochinko, Michael Rudder, Felix Mirbt and Louïs Di Bianco rehearse with two of the wooden dolls crafted by Felix Mirbt.

## Ottawa production visits France and Belgium

The National Arts Centre's French theatre production of *Woyzeck* has begun a five-week tour of France and Belgium (January 6 to February 11), under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs under Canada's cultural agreements with the two countries. This will be the first time a theatre production from the NAC will be seen abroad.

First presented at the National Arts Centre in 1974, the play, written by Georg Büchner and directed by the NAC French Theatre director Jean Herbiet, in collaboration with puppeteer Félix Mirbt, toured in Montreal in 1975, and returned to the NAC in 1976. The production, which involves actors and puppets, has been one of the major artistic successes of the Centre.

*Woyzeck* will be performed in France in Besançon, Mulhouse, Créteil, Macon, Bourges, Nevers, Le Creusot, Dijon, Pontoise, Orléans and Amiens, and in Belgium in Brussels and Liège.

## Arts briefs

The **Original Dumbbells** is a new album of musical selections recorded by the military entertainers, The Dumbbells, during their postwar vaudeville days. The album features original recordings by Al Plunkett, Red Newman, Jock Holland and Ross Hamilton, all of whom entered professional show business after amusing fellow soldiers in France during the First World War. A National Archives photograph of The Dumbbells in full costume, including two men in female clothing, is reproduced on the album cover. *The Legend of The Dumbbells*, a production portraying the characters and activities of the troupe, by the Charlottetown Summer Festival, was an uproarious hit last year. (See *Canada Weekly*, Vol. 5, No. 34, dated August 24, 1977.)

An Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism film, *Ottawa: Canada's Capital*, has won first prize in the 1977 Travel Film Festival, held annually at Anahelm, California. It was produced by Crawley Films, Ottawa, for the ministry. The film is described as a whimsical, musical romp through the four seasons around the nation's capital.

## Children's art and poetry make pitch for national unity



The National Capital Commission has produced a bilingual calendar, containing children's prints and poems, designed to promote national unity. Each page features a painting and two poems, one in English, one in French. Selections were provided by All About Us, a non-profit organization that solicits contributions from creative youngsters across the country. The calendar, published by McClelland and Stewart and designed by Frank Newfeld, is available in local bookstores.

## News briefs

Air Canada has given its 20,000 employees and their spouses flight passes on economy-class travel in appreciation for good performance in 1977. The passes, which cannot be used during certain peak travel periods, will be valid for reserved travel anywhere Air Canada flies from February 1, 1978 to January 31, 1979.

Quebec's minimum hourly wage, indexed by law, has risen to \$3.27 from \$3.15. The consumer price index was used as the standard for the new wage, reputedly the highest in North America.

The Law Reform Commission of Canada has filed an informal report to Parliament, recommending the abolition of a centuries-old privilege that protects the pay of federal employees and appointees from garnishment. The immunity has made it legally impossible for any creditor, including a family maintenance creditor, to divert a federal employee's wages for the purpose of paying off a judgment debt, including family support.

The signing of letters accrediting and recalling Canadian representatives abroad, is included in certain functions of the Sovereign that have recently been transferred to the Governor General, with the approval of Queen Elizabeth.

Governor-General Léger calls for a moratorium on the question of national unity in his New Year's message and asks for less talk and more love. In the message, televised January 1, the Governor General and Mrs. Léger ask that the moratorium be for a full year to find a solution to the difficulties facing the nation.

Almost \$30 million was cut from the Federal Government's energy bill in the 1976-77 fiscal year because of conservation measures.

The Department of Labour plans to enforce tougher controls on grain dust

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Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

levels in grain elevators, a move said to reduce Canadian chances of disasters that killed more than 40 people in the U.S. in late December.

Federal Finance Minister Jean Chrétien said recently the Canadian economy would experience a growth rate of 5 per cent in 1978 and the rate of inflation would decrease to 6 per cent from the present rate of almost 9 per cent. He added that the private sector would have to play a bigger role in resolving the problem of unemployment.

The ban on commercial Atlantic salmon fishing will continue in 1978. Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc said recently that compensation payments at 1977 levels would be paid this year to about 700 commercial fishermen who were not permitted to fish because of the ban.

Mount Agassiz ski resort in Manitoba has been confirmed as the site for the Alpine ski events for the 1979 Canada Winter Games. Out of the estimated capital cost for the ski developments of \$480,000 the Manitoba government will contribute a maximum of \$190,000 and the Federal Government will provide up to \$50,000.

The headquarters for Agriculture Canada's eastern and western research divisions will be moved this year from Ottawa to Quebec City and Saskatoon.

Canada will continue to supply Pakistan with essential commodities for industrial and agricultural use through a \$45-million development loan covering the next three years. The agreement will make available such commodities as aluminum, asbestos, copper, lead, newsprint, rubber and zinc. Canada provided a \$30-million, three-year commodity loan in 1973 and has since agreed to expand and accelerate the program because of its effectiveness.

The government of New Brunswick becomes the second province, after Quebec, to seek the status of "participating government" in the institutions, activities and programs of the *Agence de coopération culturelle et technique des pays d'expression française*. Founded in 1970, the ACCT is an international organization whose 26 member states seek, through the common bond created by the use of the French language, to co-operate in the fields of education, culture, science and technology. Quebec has been a member since 1971.

A letter from the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to world-famous magician Harry

Houdini has disappeared from the Houdini Magic Hall of Fame in Niagara Falls, Ontario. In the stolen letter are ten circled words, which, when combined with a secret code, bear the message Houdini promised to bring to earth if he ever returned. The magician died in 1926. A reward has been offered for the return of the letter, which has been in the museum since 1968.

Defence Minister Barney Danson says that Canada's program for improving its contribution to NATO defence won praise at a meeting of NATO defence ministers. Danson told a news conference that Joseph Luns, NATO secretary-general, singled out the Canadian procurement program and told closed sessions that he was pleased with the Canadian commitment to progress.

The number of U.S. visitors to Canada over the first ten months of 1977 fell by 1.6 per cent to 28.7 million, while the number of Canadians visiting the U.S. was up by 6.6 per cent to 33.4 million. The number of Canadian travellers to other foreign countries jumped 13.3 per cent to 1.6 million. The imbalance of travelling is contributing substantially to Canada's deficit, and is expected to total \$2 billion for the whole year, about twice the travel deficit in 1976.

The Canadian Forestry Service records a total of 8,702 fires from April to October, affecting a total of 1,038,000 hectares. For the 1976 fire season, the corresponding figures were 9,967 fires and 1,607,000 hectares, while the seasonal averages for the preceding ten years were 8,580 fires and 1,092,000 hectares.

Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie said recently he would ask Ontario to reduce pollution standards and the resource tax rate to help the nickel industry. He said that federal and provincial mines ministers would meet in January to discuss mining industry problems leading to layoffs.

Regina, provincial capital of Saskatchewan, has come a long way since the 1880s when the tiny settlement was known by the name of Pile-O-Bones. The city, whose population is now 160,000, celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary this year. Several national sports championships, including speedskating, indoor track and field, basketball, handball, swimming, women's softball and men's baseball, will take place in that city as part of the anniversary celebrations.