

By ALEXIS SHIELDS

One of the problems of this country, as many Canadians see it, is the overabundance of American publications in the Canadian mass-market for paperback books.

A publishing arrangement between Thomas M. Paikeday, of Mississauga, and the G.P. Putnam and Sons Publishing Company of New York, will present yet another American dictionary to the Canadian market.

Paikeday, who started working on the new dictionary six months ago, has used Canadian editors and staff for the work, which is being done in his home, along with a staff of consultants drawn from American universities.

In an interview, Paikeday said in 1974 he approached Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner, asking for help in publishing the dictionary which would be a mass-market book to sell for 95 cents.

He said he never received a reply from this office to his original proposal, although a reminder from Faulkner's assistant later said that a copy of his "interesting" letter had been passed on to the writing and publication department of the Canada Council.

According to Paikeday, the "Council has maintained a stony silence". He last wrote to the council in September, 1974.

Paikeday pointed out that in January, 1974, Faulkner had "urged the Canadian Book Publishers' Council to break into this mass-market and promised financial aid for pilot projects."

Quoting Faulkner, Paikeday said "mass-market paperbacks are the only books that reach all Canadians; they are found in more than 10,000 sales outlets across the country. But this market is one in which Canadian books are almost totally

"South of the border" an old, familiar song

absent. Less than two per cent of the 32 million mass-market paperbacks sold in Canada are Canadian-authorized."

"If Faulkner had helped me, we could have kept this dictionary a Canadian edition," said Paikeday.

He is busy with the book now and has had offers from United States educational publishers for school dictionaries for both secondary and public schools.

In 1970 he compiled a compact Dictionary of Canadian English, which presented Canadian vocabulary, meanings and pronunciations, published by the Gage Publishing Co.

Kathy Benzekri, arts officer for the writing and publishing division of Canada Council, said Paikeday had written to the division in late 1973 with the dictionary proposal. She said he admitted in his letter that he realized he would not be eligible for a Canada Council grant for publishing the book, but asked for help in looking for a sponsor for the project.

"Dictionaries are considered a commercial enterprise," she said, "and are not covered by grants from this office."

"The Council replied at that time that they could not give him a grant for this project and that after inquiries had been made

among other federal government departments, no money for his proposal could be found," she said.

"As far as we were concerned, it was a closed case at this time," she said.

Benzekri pointed out that, according to their records, Paikeday then wrote to the Secretary of State with the same proposal. That office replied to him, saying they had sent this proposal onto the Canada Council, she said, but the Council didn't receive it until much later.

In the meantime, she said, he wrote to Canada Council asking what had happened to his proposal. "We didn't have the proposal from the Secretary of State yet," she said, and had to make enquiries about it. At this time, it was forwarded on to us."

"When we received it, we found that it was the same brief as he had submitted to us in 1973," she added.

NOT IGNORED

She pointed out that the program formerly known as New Horizons had been re-named Explorations and helped with pre-publication expenses but not the publication itself.

When asked if Canada Council would reply to Paikeday, she replied that too much time had lapsed and that no reply

was necessary or required.

"He was not ignored by the Secretary of State," said Dinah Hoyle, special assistant to the Secretary of State. "We did reply to his proposal and passed the letter on to the Canada Council."

"We receive over a dozen letters a week at this office with proposals for grants," she said. "Since we do not hand out grants from this office, we send the letters on to the appropriate agency, such as CBC, Canada Council, National Film Board, Public Archives, Canadian Film Development Corporation, National Library and the National Museum."

Paikeday's dictionary, which would be an innovative and newly designed book, will be published as part of Berkley Books, the mass-market line for Putnam's.

He described the reaction of the American publishers as "enthusiastic". He said the last dictionary for the American mass-market was bought by the Dell Publishing Co. of New York in 1970 for \$750,000.

"I am expecting this edition to sell at least one million copies," he said.

The work covering A to C has been approved by the publisher already and the book is expected to be published by 1978.