

hour, suspended 15 to 20 centimetres above the top surface.

The vehicle would "take off" on eight rubber-tired wheels, which would retract as it gained enough speed for the magnetic-levitation-effect to take over, at about 30 miles an hour. Accelerating at about three feet a second, it would be magnet-borne in 15 seconds and attain full cruising speed in two-and-a-half minutes.

"The vehicle is actually surfing, as it were, on a magnetic wave," Slemon explains.

The designers see the possibility of 144 trips both ways each day on a route such as Toronto-Montreal, with no more than five minutes between trains during peak hours, but as little as two minutes between trains would be feasible.

"The system could probably be built at a cost lower than that for putting a new high-speed rail line through," Slemon says, "and with this new technology we think we can make the trip from Toronto to Montreal for the same price as by rail, or for less, and at more than twice the speed."

---

### Province aids international projects

The Manitoba government recently allocated \$38,579 in funds to aid five additional overseas projects in underdeveloped areas. Premier Ed Schreyer said the latest authorization would bring allocations for this fiscal year to \$172,400. The amount budgeted in 1976-77 for international assistance is \$250,000.

Under the program the province matches dollar for dollar — to the maximum approved allocation for each project — those funds which are provided by Manitoba agencies that serve overseas centres. Allocations are worked out through a co-ordinating body, the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation.

Local and provincial grants are then matched by the Canadian International Development Agency, which means that every dollar generated by local agencies under approved allocations will generate four dollars in aid.

The province's share of the five latest projects are: \$10,286 toward a water-supply program for the Cape Verde Islands, involving the Manitoba UNICEF Committee; \$6,493 toward a

"clustered-village-development program" in the Republic of Korea, supported by the Canadian Save the Children Fund, whereby groups of villages co-operatively undertake programs ranging from cattle breeding and road building to establishment of credit unions and installation of water and electricity; \$9,000 toward provision of nine tons of vegetable seeds to be shipped to Vietnam to help rebuild a vegetable production system destroyed by war (the Mennonite Central Committee is administering this project); \$7,800 toward construction of a vocational training school at Bolgatanga in northern Ghana. This five-year project is administered by the Anglican Church of Canada. And \$5,000 toward construction of six village schools in coastal areas of southern Kenya, supported by Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

---

### Cow, calf prices stabilized

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently announced details of an estimated \$70-million federal stabilization program for cow and calf prices for 1977, which will support calf prices at 90 per cent of the national average of the past five years, adjusted for changes in farmers' cash costs of production. All beef producers with herds of more than five cows will be eligible for assistance with special arrangements to be made for those who are covered by current provincial plans.

"It has taken many months to work out this program," Mr. Whelan said. "Farm organizations do not agree on whether there should be a federal stabilization program. Existing provincial programs vary in their support level. Budget constraints have stood in our way.

"As a result, developing a federal program has been very difficult. However, our program ensures support to all producers and it is a major effort in equalizing cow/calf support levels across the country. This plan provides for joint federal-provincial co-operation and is a major step toward a uniform national program."

The support level for 1977 will be set for good grade calves at 90 per cent of the average calf prices (September to December) in the past five years, indexed for cost changes.

The cow/calf stabilization payment for 1977 will be calculated in early January 1978 by subtracting average good grade calf prices from September to December 1977 from the support level.

"Producers do not have to sell their calves to get a federal stabilization payment. Some producers will be holding their calves to sell as yearlings or to raise them to market weight. Our program will not interfere with normal marketing decisions," Mr. Whelan said.

The stabilization program assumes an average calf weighs 450 pounds. However, the actual payment will depend on herd size. Producers must have at least five beef cows to be eligible. They may register up to 100 cows, with the first five being deductible. A farmer with 100 cows would receive a payment on 95 (the maximum), while a farmer with ten cows would get a payment for five.

"We are assuming an 85 percent calf crop. We are also assuming that producers will hold 15 per cent of their calves for herd replacements. Therefore, a producer receives a 70 percent payment on his eligible herd," Mr. Whelan explained.

"The federal program will cover cow/calf producers in provinces where there are no provincial stabilization programs. In the other provinces where existing programs continue into 1977, it will cover producers not enrolled in provincial stabilization plans. However, in any provinces where provincial stabilization levels are lower than the national support level in 1977, payments will be made to bring all producers up to the national level," stated the minister.

---

### Textbook sexism study

A 98-page study on sexism in school textbooks, released by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, recommends that all textbooks be analyzed for references and language that discriminate on the basis of sex. It was also recommended that teachers be instructed on ways of avoiding sex discrimination in their teaching.

"Until present readers can be replaced," the authors suggest, "enlightened teachers should make it their responsibility to point out sexism where it occurs in the stories."