

SCHOOL NOTES

CANADA-FRANCE TEACHER SWAP

Some 50 Canadian teachers will enrol this summer in a month-long professional development program at Lyon and LaRoche, France, as part of a cultural-exchange program. Each teacher receives a scholarship of 600 francs (about \$110) and free tuition. Another way teachers can spend a summer in France is by taking one of the courses offered by the Centres d'études françaises associées, whose teacher-training institute offers an M.A. degree in the teaching of French as a second language at a reasonable cost for tuition and accommodation (on the Côte d'Azur).

ONTARIO UPGRADES QUALIFICATIONS

A university degree in arts or science will be required by 1973 for students applying for entry into teacher-training colleges in Ontario.

At present prospective elementary teachers need marks of 60 per cent in Grade 13 to be admitted to the one-year Ontario course. In September they will have to have completed one year of university and, by autumn 1972, two years of successful university courses will be the requirement for admission to elementary teacher-training institutions.

ON THE WATCH

To help identify primary pupils who need remedial teaching, the Saanich School Board on Vancouver Island, British Columbia is trying out a "lay observers" plan. Mothers and education students will be hired to sit in on classes and, for a time, watch for classroom behaviour that disturbs others and indicates that a child might need help. The Board will be watching the "watchers" to assess the plan's worth.

EARTH SCIENCE

This year Mount Allison University in New Brunswick is running a Summer Institute credit course of particular interest to "junior high" and high-school science teachers. Earth Science will "emphasize the unity of inter-relationships of astronomy, meteorology, geology, oceanography and physical geography with the basic concepts in chemistry, physics, biology and math."

FREE SCHOOL

The municipality of North York hopes to have its first "free school" operating by next September. To be called the Alternative Independent Study Program,

it will have places for 160 Grade 11, 12 and 13 students. (If more apply, North York will use a lottery to decide who will attend.)

WEST GOES EAST

Secondary-school students in Vancouver can now learn Chinese as an elective subject. The experimental course was introduced in response to requests from Vancouver's 40,000-strong Chinese community.

ECOLOGY PROBE FOR NEW AIRPORT

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Professor Pierre Dansereau, the scientific director of CREM is head of the research project. He also is leading a team involved in the particular study of Montreal's International Airport. This research team, called EZIAM, has its headquarters at CREM.

BIRD HAZARDS

There is no doubt that the construction of this airport will have far-reaching effects on the environment of the area — on animals, birds, people, air, soil and water. The research team is endeavouring to determine the ecological balance as it existed in its natural state, the balance at the present time and what the balance is likely to be after the airport is built. One important factor under consideration is the question of the potential bird hazard to aircraft at the new airport. Valuable input is provided by the NRC Associate Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft, which is assisting in a complementary study.

Dr. Dansereau says that the project is a major experiment in the application of science to important social problems. The interest and enthusiasm of the members of the research team in undertaking this study reflect the growing concern of scientists to build more social relevance into their work.

"I am delighted that the National Research Council and the Ministry of Transport have decided to move into this field," Dr. Dansereau says. "This is an important step forward by the Council and MOT in the area of social responsibility."

Dr. Dansereau says the results of this research project will be an important guide to the developers of other major airports that probably will be built in Canada in the next 25 years, as well as to developers of other large engineering projects such as hydroelectric stations.