

It wished to use the slogan as a stamp cancellation.

The Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté, Minister without Portfolio argued against it in the House of Commons, saying that rendered bilingually it was too long for the cancelling stamp "even after removing the seed from rape seed."

He said there was also a problem of interpretation, since "not everybody knows what rape means."

Despite a severe infestation by the Bertha army worm, rape production is expected to exceed one hundred million clean bushels this year.

## Giants On Fairy Feet

WHEN the hard freeze of winter comes to the Northwest territories, men can now move freight over the literally trackless wastes — from Yellow Knife to Port Radium and over the Mackenzie Valley from Providence to Inuvik. They move on gigantic snow tractors over ice, packed snow, and frozen muskeg.

In 1920 Joseph Armand Bombardier, a young French Canadian engineer, began experimenting with machines to go over the snow. He developed a twelve passenger vehicle in 1936 and later his tracked Penguin, which the Canadian army used to slog through the low countries in World War II.

Meanwhile, other men looked to making huge vehicles with the same tracked principle — ma-

chines to carry loads of logs and oil exploration equipment virtually anywhere as cheaply as trucks and without the ice roads that trucks need in the North.

One of the principal big track innovators was Bruce Nodwell, who began building tracked vehicles in 1952. Today he and his son, John, run Foremost Tracked Vehicles in Calgary — one of the two companies in the world making giant-sized tracked vehicles. The competition, also in Calgary, is Flextrac Nodwell, which Mr. Nodwell left.

Foremost gained something of an international reputation in 1968, when Russia put in her first order for fifty-two Husky Eights and twenty Husky Sixes (the number designating the number of axles). The \$150,000 Husky Eight carries forty tons on a deck nine by thirty-four feet, going seventeen miles per hour and fording streams four feet deep. It will start in temperatures fifty to sixty degrees below zero. Since its ground pressure is only four to five pounds per square inch, it has little if any effect on the tundra. A car, by comparison, exerts ten or more psi. Foremost is now testing a new track, with even less effect on the tundra.

Mr. Nodwell sees some new developments coming in far-north traffic — the greater use of sleigh trains, such as Imperial Oil used last spring to carry 105 tons of equipment wherever they wanted — and the advent of even bigger individual units. "We're now developing the sixty-ton Grisley Eight, which we hope the Russians will be interested in," Mr. Nodwell says. "It should be ready around Christmas."

