

### New method for collecting maple sap

The development of a suction pump for collecting sap by means of plastic hoses may revolutionize the maple sugar industry and check the widespread abandonment of maple groves.

With this new method, the maple trees are connected to one another by means of hoses which are in turn connected to a larger hose that directs the sugared liquid to the main reservoir.

The suction pump operates on the same principle as the milking machine. Up to a certain point, it draws the sap from the tree instead of allowing it to flow out by itself. During tests made in 1972 the yield increased by up to 154.4 per cent and there was no noticeable effect on the growth and vigour of the tree.

The Quebec Department of Agriculture tested this method in Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska and noted an increase in the amount of sap collected. This gave promise of additional revenue for maple farmers and the elimination of the loss of a certain amount of sap.

At the time, a maple grove was reserved for experimental and demonstration purposes in the Mont-Orford provincial park, where the results of the new method would be compared with those of the old.

Denis Désilets, an agricultural engineer from Laval University, Quebec,



*Buckets, barrels and horse-drawn sleighs, used in the traditional method of collecting maple syrup may soon be*

*replaced by hoses connected to trees with a suction pump used to draw out the liquid.*

who developed the suction pump, tested it last spring in two maple groves in Bellechasse county (one in Saint-Lazare and the other in Armagh). Production increased by 136 and 131 per cent in comparison with the average production of preceding years, when maple sap was collected in buckets. Calculations also showed that the new

method reduced by 25 per cent the manpower required.

Quebec produces some 80 per cent of the world's maple syrup and the demand has increased considerably in the last few years. Owing to weather conditions, which are not always favourable however, production varies greatly from year to year.

### Caribbean and Mexican seasonal workers program

Seasonal workers from the Caribbean islands and Mexico will be admitted to Canada to assist the farmers and food processors in the growing, harvesting and canning of this year's fruit and vegetable crops, Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced recently.

The Caribbean seasonal program, which has been in effect since 1966 to overcome shortages of Canadian workers during peak demand periods, is conducted in co-operation with the Governments of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Following discussions with the Government of Mexico, the Mexican program was initiated in 1974.

These programs are intended to supplement the available supply of Can-

adian workers during peak harvest periods, and not to replace Canadian workers. Canadian students, who form a considerable part of the harvest work force, return to schools and universities just as harvest activities are on the upswing in September. Many late-maturing crops can be harvested only with considerable difficulty without the help of workers from the Caribbean and Mexico, who remain available until harvesting is completed.

During the 1974 season, a total of 5,287 Caribbean seasonal workers were admitted into Ontario and 55 into Quebec for temporary employment with 504 employers. Some 195 Mexican workers were admitted with 147 going to Ontario, 32 to Alberta, nine to Manitoba and seven to Quebec.

### The old tobacco stamp is gone

A 110-year old "tradition" in Canada ended this autumn with the recent decision to cease supplying tobacco manufacturers with the familiar excise duty stamp found on all packages of cigarettes, cigars and cut tobacco.

Over the years, these stamps have been a source of controversy between government and the tobacco industry and their usage has been greatly misunderstood by the general public.

Manufacturers have felt that the tax represented by these stamps was too high and their product was being unduly discriminated against as a luxury item. The public, in many cases, have had varying ideas about why these stamps were attached to tobacco products. Many people believed that the stamps were a mark of freshness indi-