

fish aquarium. Three model frogs on the Old Mill Pool silently croak their way into visiting children's hearts.

Scattered throughout the site are a number of street lights in the guise of fruit and flower trees and toadstools. A public telephone booth is in the shape of a bass-viol.

The major feature at the zoo is the Edmonton Little Western Railroad, which takes its passengers on a quarter-mile tour of the grounds. Powered by a four-cylinder gasoline engine, the miniature train is complete with whistle and bell.

Animals at the zoo include penguins, monkeys, llamas, deer, moose, sheep, bears, mountain goats, beaver, racoons, domestic farm animals, and "de-odorized" skunks. Numerous species of native and tropical birds are also on display.

The zoo, surrounded by a frontier style stockade, boasts a main entrance built like a medieval castle. A moat-like effect is provided by ponds of water at the entrance.

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## SEED CONE HARVEST

Private timber operators and the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests have co-operated this fall in harvesting some 1,000 bushels of white-spruce seed cones. This marked the first large-scale harvest of spruce seed in Alberta, to be used in coming years for artificial reforestation.

Harvesting was done during September in each of Alberta's ten forest divisions and reserves. Weeks of organization preceded the operations, to ensure that cones would be gathered at the right stage of seed maturity. Crews of pickers, Indians, settlers, and logging-camp workers were recruited locally in each division. The Alberta Forest Service paid the pickers \$3.75 a bushel for cones. Some workers gathered as many as four bushels a day.

Timber-berth operators co-operated by arranging pre-season cutting on their license areas. Seed trees were chosen by Forest Service personnel. Only the largest, healthiest trees were selected. Fallers worked with chain saws, and after cutting down a tree usually limbed it and carried cone-laden branches to clearings for easy access by the pickers. The logs will be taken out this winter by berth operators and manufactured.

Harvest cones were cured at Forest Service headquarters. Later they will be shipped to the Provincial Tree Nursery at Oliver for seed extraction and temporary storage. Seed from each collection area will be kept separate for future use in that area.

The white-spruce cone crop was particularly good in Alberta this year. Some of the larger trees produced up to three bushels of cones. The last year of fair seed production occurred in 1954. Cones from some coniferous species,

such as pine, hold their seed for years but spruce cones open and seed scatters within a week of reaching maturity. This peculiarity necessitates that harvesting be done in the short period when seeds have ripened but the cone has not yet opened.

Another major project associated with white spruce reforestation was initiated this year by Forest Service personnel. It involves scarification or working of the soil. This year the work was done in partially-cut spruce stands. The department scarified over 1,000 acres this fall, ranging from about 50 to 300 acres in each forest division. Four types of machines, one of them from a foreign model entirely new to Alberta, were used to meet varying soil and brush conditions.

Forest Service personnel are hopeful that the scarification will provide a suitable seed bed for reception of this year's good seed production. White spruce regeneration is largely dependent on climatic and soil conditions immediately after the seed drops in the fall and again in the following spring.

Results of this year's soil scarification programme will be closely observed in the next few years. Forestry personnel are also working on plans for a combined scarifier-seeder to be used in areas where artificial seeding may be required.

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## BALANCE OF PAYMENTS - 1958

"The Canadian Balance of International Payments 1958 and International Investment Position", a report recently issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, provides detailed statistics over a period of years on Canada's commercial and financial transactions with other countries. The leading features of the Canadian balance of payments are presented, together with the effects of heavy inflows of capital during the past decade upon Canada's international indebtedness position. Outstanding features are the size of deficits on current international account and the sources of these.

In 1958, the current account deficit from transactions in goods and services with other countries amounted to \$1,085 million. Of this sum, \$170 million originated in merchandise trade; the remaining \$915 million was due to other groups of current transactions. In 1957, merchandise accounted for \$579 million of the deficit of \$1,424 million, while other transactions were responsible for a deficit of \$845 million.

### NON-MERCHANDISE TRANSACTIONS

The growth in the deficit from transactions other than merchandise trade has been under way for a number of years and originates from a variety of groups of transactions between Canada and other countries. About one-half of the recent deficit can be traced to trans-