

NATIONAL EGG-MARKETING AGENCY

Agriculture Minister H.A. Olson and provincial ministers of agriculture have achieved near-unanimous agreement on the desirability of establishing a national egg-marketing agency.

Three objects of such an agency are to foster a strong, efficient and economic poultry industry; to provide stable and reasonable returns to producers; and to make a dependable supply of quality eggs available to consumers at stable prices.

The ministers agreed that, should an agency be established to implement provincial, regional or national marketing quotas, it would be instructed to limit allocation of marketing quotas to production facilities established before the end of November 1968. This limitation would remain in effect until further expansion of the industry was necessary.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Egg-marketing has been under intensive study by Mr. Olson and his provincial counterparts since mid-summer, following a request by the Canadian Conference on Egg Production. Discussion covered the jurisdictional and economic aspects of a marketing authority. It was agreed that jurisdictional problems could be met either by the delegation of powers by the provinces or by contractual arrangements between provincial marketing agencies and the national agency.

The proposal will now be discussed in detail with representatives of Canada's 175,000 egg-producers.

CURLING STAMP

A 6-cent stamp in the sports series in honour of curling, the "roaring game", will be released by the Canada Post Office on January 15, 1969.

The new horizontal issue is 40 mm. x 24 mm. and was designed by David Eales, of Toronto.

The British American Bank Note Company Ltd., Ottawa, will combine steel engraving and photo-gravure to print 24.5 million of the curling stamps in three colours on a white background. Silhouetted figures of four players in action form the main design of the stamp.

UNCERTAIN ORIGIN OF CURLING

Although the origin of curling is obscure, the curlers of the Town of Kilsyth in Stirlingshire, Scotland, whose forefathers started to play the game in 1716, are regarded as having the world's oldest continuing club; the Royal Montreal Curling Club, which was organized in 1807, was the first in North America. Evidence does exist that the game was in vogue in Scotland during the very early years of the sixteenth century, and some writers claim that it was introduced into that country during the reign of James I (1394-1437). The early Icelandic *knattleikr* is a possible contest from which the "roaring game" originated, though some investigators think it came from continental Europe. In 1890, after assessing

claims and counter-claims, the historian of Scotland's Royal Caledonia Curling Club, which affiliated groups in 12 countries regard as the "mother club", wrote: "There are no facts by which we can determine precisely the antiquity of the game."

A recent estimate by a representative of the Canadian Curling Association places the number of curlers in Canada at nearly half a million.

FILMS HELP TEACH HANDICAPPED

Working under the supervision of Dr. M. Sam Rabinovitch, a psychologist at the Learning Centre of the Montreal Children's Hospital, and his colleagues Margaret Gollick and Renée Stevens, a National Film Board team has produced *Loops to Learn By*, a unique series of 8-mm. films specially designed for children with learning difficulties.

The programme, consisting of over 100 short, inexpensive silent films, has been under continuous development and testing for over two years, by some of NFB's most skilled film-makers, working closely with Dr. Rabinovitch to make the films as attractive and effective as possible. They are designed to help teachers, psychologists, and other professionals who work with children to provide them the kind of specialized training they need for their various learning handicaps such as short-attention span, poor visual skill, limited awareness and management of their bodies, inadequate language development, and incomplete grasp of concepts of space, time and sequence.

LOAN TO BOLIVIA

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry and Trade and Commerce, recently announced details of Canada's first long-term loan to Bolivia through the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. The loan is for an amount of \$2.5 million to finance the sale of Canadian goods and services for the expansion of electric-power generation, transmission and distribution facilities in and around La Paz.

Under the loan agreement, repayment of which is guaranteed by the Government of Bolivia, financing is provided to *Compañía Boliviana de Energía Eléctrica, S.A.* (Bolivian Power Company Limited, Montreal and La Paz). After a period of grace of two and a half years, the loan will be repaid over 12 years, with interest at six per cent a year. Montreal Engineering Company, Limited, the Canadian exporter, will co-ordinate purchases in Canada and will also provide engineering, construction, technical and similar services.

YUGOSLAV AIR EXPERTS VISIT

A delegation of senior Yugoslav officials arrived in Canada recently to begin a three-week study tour of Canadian air-transportation facilities and airport-construction capabilities.

The mission, sponsored by the federal Depart-