

attached to rocks near low water or beyond it, sometimes to depths of 30 feet. It has multiple branches near the tips, which give it a tufted appearance. When it occurs in areas where there are very high tides, the fronds may be six or seven inches long, but ordinarily the fully grown plant grows to four or five inches.

Irish moss is harvested mostly by hand, picked off the shore where it is tossed by storms. It is also gathered by long hand-rakes from small boats.

#### DRYING FACILITIES

A Marine Plants Experimental Station, built and operated by the Industrial Development Service of the Department of Fisheries of Canada, was opened in 1966 at Miminegash, Prince Edward Island, where mechanical drying facilities for Irish moss are provided. Within a year, two commercial plants were established nearby, so that the Station can now devote its attention to the general development of the marine plants industry for all Canadian regions where there is a seaweed potential.

#### INDUSTRIAL USES

In the food-processing industry, carrageenin is used by the makers of chocolate milk, "minute breakfasts", ice cream, sherbert, pie fillings, confectionery, beer, desserts, salad dressings, fruit syrups, flavouring, icings, and jellied poultry and fish soups.

In other industries, it is utilized in insect sprays, water-base paints, inks, cloth-sizing, paper-sizing, thread-sizing, shoe stains, shampoos, ointments, emulsions, tablets, finishing leather, graining leather, some printing processes, cosmetics and dental impression compounds.

As there are no plants in Canada yet for the extraction of carrageenin from Irish moss, the dried product is exported to the United States and Denmark.

#### HOUSEHOLD LUXURIES INCREASE

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that the number of Canadian households with electrical equipment and other modern conveniences continued to increase this year.

Electric-cooking equipment is used in 75.3 per cent of the total number of households, compared to 73.1 per cent last year, while freezers are in 29.2 per cent of all the homes in Canada this year, compared to 27.7 per cent in 1967. The percentage of households with automatic dishwashers increased to 5.1 per cent from 4.4 per cent and households with automatic washing machines rose to 32.0 per cent from 30.0 per cent. The number of other electric washing machines declined to 51.6 per cent from 55.1. The percentage of homes with clothes-dryers was 36.8 per cent (34.5 per cent last year), while 92.7 per cent had telephones, an increase from 91.7 per cent in 1967.

FM radio receivers are in 40.4 per cent of homes (34.4 per cent last year); television sets are owned by 95.2 households (94.6 per cent last year) with colour television in 4.2 per cent of all households

(2.0 per cent). The proportion of homes with phonographs and record-players increased to 66.0 per cent from 64.4 per cent.

One automobile is owned by 61.1 per cent of all Canadian households, which is an increase from 60.8 per cent last year, while two or more automobiles are owned by 15.5 per cent (14.9 per cent).

#### AERIAL PIX DETECT DISEASE

Colour photographs taken from an aircraft cruising at heights of 4,500 and 9,000 feet above Canadian bean-fields are showing scientists certain blight-infection patterns which could not be seen by persons walking through the fields. "We might find that spot of disease when we walk through the field, and then again, we might not stumble across it," says Dr. Wallen, Chief of the phytopathology section, Cell Biology Research and Economics Branch, Department of Agriculture. "But with this picture, we can't miss."

#### NATIONAL SURVEY

The experimental pictures taken over bean crops in the Hensall area of Ontario this summer, showed that aerial photography could be used to survey disease infections. Aerial photography will be a major part of the research project conducted by Mr. L.E. Philpotts and Dr. Wallen and his group of four other disease experts, who will be launching a survey and disease assessment programme later this year. With the help of scientists across Canada, they hope to produce the first national aerial survey of plant disease, and develop and put into practice methods for disease-loss assessment.

The survey will focus on the diseases of important crops. A clear picture of nation-wide losses to diseases should emerge when the methodology has been perfected.

#### MAN AND HIS WORLD CLOSES

A total of 12,516,480 visitors attended the Man and His World Exhibition in Montreal, which closed on October 14.

It is estimated that 74.12 per cent of these visitors were Canadians, 21.20 per cent were from the United States, and 4.68 per cent were from other countries.

Each visitor spent an average of six hours at the site; about 45 per cent visited La Ronde, the amusement area. Handicapped visitors totalled 14,430.

The most popular displays were Biosphere, Cars of Yesteryear, *Canada 67* (a film), Face of Winter and Québec.

Hungry fair-goers consumed 717,072 hot dogs, 169,600 hamburgers, and 42,265 gallons of ice cream.

There were a fluctuating number of employees on staff at Man and His World but when the exhibition was at its peak, there were 5,430 on the payroll.