

## Bees may help locate minerals

Tiny doormats at the entrances to beehives may help mining companies locate mineral deposits, a University of British Columbia geological researcher believes.

"I think we've got a very useful method that may add to the various methods used by geologists to discover minerals," said Harry Warren, professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Warren has spent years of research trying to discover if infinitesimal concentrations of mineral trace elements can yield clues to the whereabouts of big mineral deposits.

He said honeybee pollen has been shown to contain varying concentrations of copper, molybdenum, zinc, lead, iron and cadmium, depending on where the bee makes his rounds.

### Pollen on feet

"Bees collect pollen from flowers on their feet, and other parts of their bodies," he said.

"By putting a pollen trap at the hive entrance so that the bee is forced to wipe his feet before he can pass into the hive, the pollen falls off."

Working in co-operation with the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and the B.C. Honey Producers Association, Mr. Warren selected 25 acres around the province and analyzed the mineral content in pollen samples from each.

Pollen from the area around the Afton copper mine near Kamloops, British Columbia, yielded a copper content of 54 parts *per* million, compared with 15 parts *per* million from the area around Trail where lead and zinc are smelted.

Zinc concentrations were much higher in samples taken from the area around Trail.

*Canada Weekly* is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.*

*Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.*

## News briefs

A delegation of Canadian nuclear experts visited Peking recently for discussions with Chinese government and electrical utility representatives. The Canadian officials gave a series of talks to groups within the First Ministry of Machine Building (which consists of industries fabricating components for energy production), the Second Ministry of Machine Building (responsible for nuclear research and development), and Chinese electrical utilities. They also visited an industrial exhibit and some large manufacturing plants in Shanghai.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced a \$20-million (U.S.) line of credit agreement with a group of associated Mexican mining companies, which will be used to finance purchases of mining-related equipment and services that the group expects to make from Canada during the next three years. The Mexican group is composed of Industrial Minera Mexico, S.A. (IMMSA), Zinc de Mexico, S.A., Minerales Metalicos del Norte, S.A., Carbonifera de Mexico, S.A., and Carbonifera de San Juan, S.A. Sales made under the line of credit are expected to generate some 800 man-years of employment in Canada at various manufacturers and their suppliers. The group, which is the largest private mining group in Mexico, is involved throughout Mexico in the mining, smelting and refining of a great variety of minerals, including gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, fluorspar and coal.

Abitibi-Price Inc. of Toronto plans an \$8-million expansion of its exterior hard-board siding plant at Roaring River, North Carolina. This is in addition to last year's \$22-million expansion, scheduled for completion this year. The company will also spend \$2.5 million on pollution control. Employment at the plant is expected to rise to 360 from 230 by mid-1981.

J.A. Marcel Crête has been appointed Chief Justice of the Quebec Court of Appeal. He replaces G. Edouard Rinfret who served as Chief Justice since his appointment in 1977.

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan has started construction of a \$1.3-million potassium sulphate plant at its Cory mine to test a new production method using sodium sulphate. David Dombowsky, company president, said he expects a commer-

cial plant, capable of producing 200,000 tons a year of potassium sulphate, to be in operation within three years. Potassium sulphate is used to make fertilizer for chlorine-sensitive crops such as citrus fruits and tobacco.

The Federal Government has signed agreements with the Province of Quebec, the Cree Regional Board of Health and the Kativik Health and Social Services Council. The five agreements, involving federal expenditures of \$908,000, will ensure the delivery of health care services and programs to the Cree and Inuit people in the James Bay communities of Poste-de-la-Baleine, Mistassini, Povungnituk, Akulivik, Inukjuak and Sugluk through the use of the health system of the Quebec Department of Social Affairs. The agreements are a mechanism to ease the transition until such time as the Cree Board and the Kativik Council assume the takeover of the entire responsibility of health services for their people in the area.

Air Canada reported profits of \$55.4 million last year, a 17 per cent increase over 1978, according to Claude Taylor, president. For a second consecutive year the airline paid a \$13.2-million dividend to the Federal Government, the Crown company's only shareholder. The airline carried 12.8 million passengers last year and 158,950 tons of cargo.

The Canada Cup hockey tournament, scheduled for this September, has been cancelled because a large number of National Hockey League players decided that they could not support the event with a Soviet representative competing, Alan Eagleson, chief international negotiator for Hockey Canada announced recently. "The players were agreed that the sacrifice (Canadian) amateur athletes have been forced to accept because of a government decision is a sacrifice professional hockey players can make without government interference," he said.

The Manitoba agricultural department will spend an estimated \$33.9 million in 1980-81, a \$3.7-million increase over last year's spending. The bulk of spending will be in four specific areas - livestock management and production, market development, Agri-Water resource management, and 4-H programming and extension services. Initiatives will be taken to stimulate development and growth of the livestock sector. The province will work with the Federal Government to try to expand and refine national stabilization programs.