

Department of Agriculture through the Prairie Farm Assistance Administration in Regina, Saskatchewan, the agency that last year administered Operation LIFT.

The incentive payments will be offered only to farmers who hold a Canadian Wheat Board permit book.

In order to qualify, farmers will be required to increase forage acreage by seeding-down land that was cultivated and not in perennial forage last year. The minimum application will be 25 acres a year, with no maximum.

The program, which will be voluntary, will apply for three years or to a maximum of 4 million acres, whichever limit is reached first.

Farmers will receive \$5 an acre when the PFAA has checked their application forms and affidavits attesting to the accuracy of their claims. They will receive another \$5 an acre when inspectors verify that the land is still in forage production on July 15 of the following year.

There are about 12 million acres in forages on Prairies.

NEW EMBASSY IN ALGIERS

The Department of External Affairs has announced that Canada will soon appoint its first resident ambassador to Algeria. Preparations are under way for the opening of a diplomatic mission in Algiers in consultation with the Algerian authorities. The new ambassador will take up his post in the near future.

The plan to open a new resident mission at this level is a sign of the desire of both governments to further the relations already established between Algeria and Canada; it indicates the importance Canada attaches to Algeria's role on the international scene and reflects the growing co-operation between the two countries. A Canadian embassy located in Algiers will also be able to provide all necessary services for the many Canadian nationals in Algeria.

Up to now, Canada's diplomatic relations with Algeria have been conducted by the Canadian Ambassador residing in Bern. Algeria, which already has an embassy in Ottawa, will appoint an ambassador as soon as possible.

STAMPING OUT RAPE

According to the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Tisdale, a Saskatchewan town of 2,900 inhabitants, was recently refused permission to incorporate on a local stamp cancellation the slogan: Celebrate Homecoming '71 in the Land of Rape and Honey.

Tisdale, situated about 140 miles northeast of Saskatoon, is the centre of an area where the growing

of rape to produce rapeseed oil is a major industry. In the Prairies, this crop ranks third in importance after wheat and barley. A large amount of Canada's best honey is also produced in the vicinity.

For many years Tisdale has used the slogan: Tisdale, Sask., Land of Rape and Honey, and, when Saskatchewan decided that 1971 would be a province-wide celebration year aimed at encouraging former residents back home, the community was surprised that officials of the Post Office in Ottawa did not consider their proposed slogan "suitable". The reply to Tisdale's application read in part:

"We are assuming that an error was made in the spelling of the word 'rape' in the slogan submitted. If, however, it wasn't a misspelling, we certainly cannot authorize it for obvious reasons."

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY COMCENTRE

The National Research Council of Canada announced recently a grant of up to \$500,000 over a four-year period toward the establishment of a Communications Research Laboratory at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Research by the Laboratory will be designed to keep Canada up to date on communications and computer applications, both of which have been described by the Science Council of Canada as priority areas for immediate planning in shaping the role of science and technology in Canada.

In spite of the importance of communications to Canada, research in this area has been somewhat neglected in comparison to research in other fields of electrical engineering. There are only a few universities besides McMaster with an established interest in communications.

NATURE OF GRANT

The National Research Council's support will be given in the form of a Negotiated Development Grant of between \$410,000 and \$500,000. The grant for 1970-71 will be \$80,000; in 1971-72, subject to the availability of funds; it will be \$170,000. The amounts to be awarded by NRC in 1972-73 and 1973-74 will be determined following reviews by the Council in the autumn of 1971 and 1972.

Negotiated Development Grants were initiated by NRC in 1967 to assist universities in developing new or interdisciplinary research centres, particularly in fields relevant to the scientific, economic, resource and regional development of Canada.

McMaster University is establishing the Laboratory because of the increasing use in the last few years of digital techniques in the practical implementation of communication systems. This trend has occurred largely for three reasons - the high degree of reliability offered by digital communications and digital signal-processing systems, the impact of the digital computer, and the advent of large-scale integrated circuitry.