

## REGINA TRADE OFFICE

A regional office of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce was officially opened in Regina, Saskatchewan, on September 5 by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Its purpose is to bring the Department's services and counsel within closer reach of the business community in Saskatchewan. Industry and trade promotion will be carried out in co-operation with the provincial Department of Industry and Commerce.

The new office is the eighth regional bureau maintained by the Department in Canada, the Saskatchewan area formerly having been covered by the Winnipeg office.

Mr. Pepin spoke of the need for thriving secondary and service industries in the province. He referred to the flourishing farm equipment industry in Saskatchewan and the fact that much of its output was being exported. "Saskatchewan manufacturers are ideally situated to take advantage of the agricultural equipment needs of the entire plains market of Canada and the United States," Mr. Pepin said.

The Minister remarked that trade missions could do much to expand export markets. Earlier this year, a group of United States agricultural equipment distributors sponsored by the federal and provincial governments toured Saskatchewan. In turn, Saskatchewan businessmen visited the U.S. "More interchange of this nature is needed and more of your businessmen should go out personally and see just what the market possibilities are," he said.

He urged greater development of skills and ideas within the province and pointed out that Federal Government assistance was available for research and development and other purposes.

Other regional offices of the Department are in Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's.

## GRASSLANDS RESEARCH

Headquarters for grasslands studies that are under way in 30 countries as part of the International Biological Program (IBP) have been established at Matador Project, a field station set up in 1967 by the University of Saskatchewan, with funds provided by the National Research Council of Canada, near Kyle, 30 miles north of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. By opening this station for the study of biological productivity on grasslands, the University assumed a leading role in the world-wide IBP study of the biological basis of productivity and human welfare. The IBP was organized under the auspices of the International Council of Scientific Unions to evaluate the world rate of food production in view of the requirements of a rising population.

The special committee on the IBP with scientific headquarters in London, England, has now designated the Matador Project the "International Center for

IBP Grasslands Studies". This means that Matador and its Director, Dr. R.T. Coupland of Saskatoon, are the focus for IBP Grasslands investigations throughout the world and are responsible for distributing information to the other field stations engaged in this research.

## RECENT CONFERENCE

Matador was the site of an international meeting from September 5 to 10, when some 50 visiting foreign scientists joined Canadian researchers to evaluate procedures followed since 1967 in grasslands studies. The meeting considered whether any changes should be made for the two-and-a-half years remaining in the program, which centers on fact-finding. A follow-up international programme called "Man and the Biosphere", now being planned, will be concerned with the application of these findings to the efficient management of the landscape.

Dr. Coupland said that the object was to find out the level of food production that could be maintained indefinitely and what steps, if any, could be taken to increase that level. "The usual approach to the world's food problems is to strive for large increases in yield on the assumption that these can be sustained," he said. "Our approach requires the evaluation of total biological productivity to determine whether the yield that is harvested can be depended on in perpetuity."

The study of animals that transform plant food into secondary products, of micro-organisms, and of soils, nutrients, and soil and aerial atmospheres, is involved, as well as the central study of plants.

Dr. Coupland pointed out that there were former fertile areas of the world where the productivity of land had dropped to near zero and he went on to say: "We, in fact, do not know how long the soil will continue to deliver food to us, even though we follow the best recommendations for cultivation and fertilizer use."

He stated that native prairie grassland was in balance with the prairie climate and could, therefore, maintain itself indefinitely. "If we could understand how the grassland system works, we might then be able to develop a crop system on a similar sustained basis."

Project Matador is located on three sections of the last extensive uncultivated area of first-class wheatland on the prairies. The studies are being carried out mainly on native grassland and on a recently-cultivated wheat field. About 100 people representing numerous branches of biology, soil, crop and animal science, and meteorology, are directly involved in the research. Scientists from the University's Saskatoon and Regina campuses and from the federal Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the National Research Council, and the Universities of Calgary and Manitoba are co-operating in the project, which is financed largely by the National Research Council.