

## WHALE-TAGGING PAYS OFF

The first positive indication that the white whales of Hudson Bay travel great distances has been obtained by the capture of one of them at Repulse Bay, about 500 miles north of the point of which it had been tagged. This partly solves a marine mystery that has hampered efforts of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to determine what recommendations to make to persons concerned with the exploitation and survival of the white whales, or *beluga*, of arctic and sub-arctic regions.

Marine scientists, who need to know whether *beluga* populations are local, or whether they intermingle and move up and down the coast, and deep into the Bay, have had no means of solving this problem, except by guess-work based on such uncertain factors as the size of the animals and limited observations made from aircraft.

Last July, Dr. D.E. Sergeant of the Research Board's Arctic Biological Station at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, organized a tagging expedition to the estuary of the Seal River, 30 miles north of Churchill, Manitoba. About 150 *beluga* were tagged, some by special harpoons that could be withdrawn when the tag had been attached to the hide of the animals, others by tags attached by hand to the dorsal muscle after the whales had been driven into the shallows, where they could be held by ropes during the tagging operation.

### FIVE HUNDRED MILES IN TWO MONTHS

The recovered tag, one of the harpoon type, which was taken from a *beluga* captured in a net by an Eskimo hunter three miles from Repulse Bay, proved that it had travelled about 500 miles in two months, in a northwesterly direction. This information tends to confirm the belief previously held by Dr. Sergeant and other scientists that *beluga* of the Eastern Arctic spent the winter in western and northern Hudson Bay and moved south in the summer. The knowledge helps determine the size of stocks and the possible limits of their utilization, and thus serves as a preventive against over-exploitation. The *beluga*, an important factor in the economy of Indians and Eskimos, provide oil, meat and leather. Commercial exploitation is at present on a relatively small scale in Hudson Bay.

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## LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION

Labour Minister J.M. Nicholson recently told a labour-management area conference in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, that, in seeking better communications, it was going straight to the heart of today's difficulties in labour-management relations.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, Mr. Nicholson said: "The responsibilities of labour and management are growing heavier all the time. New problems, for example those of technological change, are being overlaid on more historic issues, and the complexities that result cry out for more effective study, consultation and planning."

He pointed to joint labour-management consultation committees as one way of achieving this. Such committees, he said, "offer both parties a way of communicating that they could never achieve if their relations were confined to periodic bargaining sessions".

Mr. Nicholson warned that communication in industrial relations required goodwill and frankness. "It demands," he said, "that we abandon the set position, the catch-phrase, the appeal to emotion. It demands hard work."

"If labour and management abdicate their responsibilities," he added, "there will be a growing demand for more government intervention, if only to protect the public interest. And if we come to depend on government intervention to extricate industrial relations from its difficulties, then the whole system of free collective bargaining is in jeopardy."

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## CANADA PENSION PLAN COMMITTEE

Health and Welfare Minister Allan J. MacEachen has announced the appointment of a Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee to review the operation of the legislation governing the national pension plan, the state of the investment fund and the adequacy of coverage and benefits under the relevant act.

The Committee, which is to report its findings to Mr. MacEachen, will meet in Ottawa at least once a year and at such other times and places as it considers necessary. Its first meeting will be held in Ottawa in December.

Committee members represent employees, employers, self-employed persons and the general public.

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## UGANDA GAME SOURCE OF FOOD

A more efficient and cheaper method of producing meat for the protein-deficient diets of the people of Uganda is being developed by wildlife biologist John A. Bindemagel of Kitchener, Ontario.

Mr. Bindemagel, an adviser with the External Aid Office, is conducting an experiment in Uganda to prove that the African buffalo, Uganda Kob, antelope and other game animals are a better source of meat than cattle.

Systematic "game-cropping", he says, can produce more meat than cattle, and at the same time will ensure preservation of the wild animals now threatened by the growth of the cattle industry in the country.

The wild animals have an inherent resistance to the diseases and parasites that kill cattle, can go for long periods without water and can graze on certain grass that cattle cannot eat.

Mr. Bindemagel's work is a continuation of that started by Dr. John Tener of the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1963, and carried on by Pat Martin of the British Columbia Department of Fish and Wildlife.