

AIR AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY

The Department of External Affairs has announced the signing in Ottawa on Friday, November 28 of an air agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreement is accompanied by an exchange of notes outlining the route schedules. The discussions took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation.

Under the arrangement arrived at by the two delegations, TCA is authorized to operate an air service between Canada and Dusseldorf and thence to Vienna, as well as to a second point in Europe to be selected at a later date. In turn, Lufthansa is authorized to operate an air service between Germany and Montreal, and thence to Chicago, as well as to Boston or New York when TCA selects a second point in Europe.

It will be recalled that TCA has been operating a service to Dusseldorf since 1952 and Lufthansa has been flying into Montreal and on to Chicago since 1956 under temporary arrangements.

The agreement was negotiated by the Canadian Delegation led by Mr. A.D. McLean, member of the Air Transport Board and the German Delegation led by Mr. H. Kallus, Director, Air Department, Federal Transport Ministry. The agreement has yet to be submitted to the respective governments for approval.

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BIOLOGISTS TO U.S.S.R.

Arrangements for senior biologists of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests to visit the U.S.S.R. to study the sturgeon fishing industry of that country are now under way. For years there has been a free exchange of scientific information between the Ontario Department and the Soviet Government and no difficulties are anticipated in having one or more of Ontario's top piscatorial scientists make the journey, probably by way of Moscow, to the main centres of the U.S.S.R. industry.

The study, it is expected, will enable the Canadian scientists to further their knowledge of the propagation, feeding habits and life of one of the world's oldest fishes and it is also expected it may be possible to obtain some spawning stock in the U.S.S.R. to help increase the sturgeon yield in Ontario waters.

The sturgeon is a scientific oddity dating back to prehistoric times. The flesh has always commanded a high price on Canadian and United States markets while the eggs or roe is the caviar which in some cases is almost worth its weight in gold. At one time, fish weighing up to 300 pounds and measuring seven feet in length were caught occasionally in the Great Lakes; in inland lakes and rivers, fish of 70 to 100 pounds are sometimes taken.

Sturgeon are taken in the Albany River and tributaries. The Albany is a vast stream which

wanders for more than 400 miles across far northern Ontario. Here the Indians set up isolated camps, use nets or not infrequently "night lines" baited with pieces of raw pickarel or pike and haul their fish ashore.

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ANCIENT SPECIMENS UNEARTHED

The second major early post glacial landscape in Saskatchewan, which may prove to be from 7,000 to 13,000 years old, has been unearthed in a sediment filled pond, northwest of Kayville, according to Bruce McCorquodale, museum assistant at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

Reported to the Museum by Jack Scrimbit, a Kayville district farmer, who made the discovery while excavating a dugout to water his cattle, the site will provide invaluable information in the fields of archaeological and palaeontological research and may predate the first site discovered at Herbert, Sask., in 1940, dated at 10,500 years.

PRESERVATION REMARKABLE

The Kayville site has yielded enough sample material to keep the Museum staff busy for weeks. Samples are in such a fine state of preservation that many have retained their original colour. They include trunks, cones and stems from various deciduous trees and shrubs, moss, layers of algae, pollen and seeds of several kinds of plants, blades of grass, insects of several varieties (mostly aquatic) ostracods (tiny marine shell fish) a variety of snails, part of the skeleton of a small mammal, a portion of an egg.

Evidence of the beaver was found in a small piece of wood cut at both ends along with chips which indicate beaver cuttings.

Reason for the remarkable state of preservation, according to Mr. McCorquodale is the dense firm structure of the silt covering the site and the presence of water during alternating periods which would cut off air and prevent deterioration.

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FREE TRANSFUSIONS

Free blood transfusions will be provided for patients in all Ontario hospitals, it was announced recently by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

It has been estimated by Red Cross officials that 200,000 bottles of blood will be needed yearly to supply 30,000 hospital beds in the Province.

The various Red Cross branches will be responsible for recruiting blood donors. Both the Federal and the Provincial Government will help pay for extension of the service to all hospitals.