

Something to sneeze at

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particular is a haven from ragweed hay fever.

Manitoba has the dubious distinction of being a major centre for the giant ragweed, where infestations occur in the agricultural districts of the Red River Valley and pollen counts there are high enough to bring on the sniffles.

Canada's three most western provinces are almost free of ragweed pollen. The one exception is the southeastern part of Alberta, where several plants related to ragweed are common. Hay-fever sufferers tend to be sensitive to plants such as burragweed and false ragweed.

The western ragweed, found in the dry sandy soils of the prairie region, resembles the common ragweed in general appearance, but is the least common of the three species and causes little problem. However, this weed is now found in Ontario and Quebec and adds to the discomfort of hay-fever sufferers in those areas.

To keep ragweed under control, continuous eradication programs must be carried out over a wide area with the proper use of herbicides.

News briefs

Judge Robert Cliche, the associate chief justice of Quebec's provincial court, who led a royal commission inquiry into corruption in the province's construction industry, died of a heart attack on September 5. He was 58. Judge Cliche was Quebec leader of the federal New Democratic Party from 1964 to 1968.

The Canadian National Exhibition set a new attendance record of 3,593,000 for 1978, passing last year's figure of 3,547,000.

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

Reductions in finances and staff in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs resulting from the Government's efforts to constrain expenditures will total \$32 million in 1978-79 and 1979-80 and include the elimination of over 150 man-years.

Additional information to help the public and municipal planning authorities avoid problems caused by flooding and erosion of the Great Lakes shores was announced recently by the federal and Ontario governments. New maps showing areas subject to flooding and erosion cover the Great Lakes shoreline area from the Sauble River on Lake Huron to Gananoque on Lake Ontario. The maps each cover up to 20 km of shoreline at a scale of 100 metres to the centimetre and are available at \$2.75 each from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Public Service Centre, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

The Canadian International Development Agency has made a \$60.5-million grant to Bangladesh to help it purchase essential industrial and agricultural goods from Canada.

According to a study made public recently, the raise in minimum wage in Quebec over the past 20 months has increased the number of unemployed in the province by between 25,000 and 42,000. Pierre Fortin, author of the study commissioned by the Quebec Minimum Wage Commission, says the already high minimum wage, to be raised to \$3.37 an hour on October 1, "has harmful effects on employment, on prices and the solvency of enterprises, and its net impact on the redistribution of income seems clearly ineffective by comparison with other instruments of redistribution".

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan announced recently that the Animal Disease and Protection Act had been extended to cover the inspection and approval of animal embryo transfer centres. "Now that there are regulations in place, our Health of Animals Branch can inspect the centres for sanitation and check animals to ensure they are free of diseases prohibited by countries wishing to import Canadian livestock," Mr. Whelan said. The centres must also maintain comprehensive identification of embryos.

This autumn Canadian apple growers are expecting to harvest a crop substantially larger than the 1977 crop of 409,050,000 kilograms.

The Export Development Corporation and the Royal Bank of Canada have con-

cluded the financing of \$10.2 million to support the \$12-million sale of Canadian goods and services for the expansion of an electric generating station in Venezuela. The construction of an 87,000-kilowatt thermal generating plant, as part of the expansion of the Ramon Laguna generating station in Maracaibo, Venezuela, will sustain at least 470 man-years of employment for the exporters — C.I. Power Services Ltd. of Montreal, Quebec and Wilcox Canada Ltd. of Cambridge, Ontario — and some 20 sub-suppliers in Canada.

About 800 of the world's leading scientists, including some from Eastern Europe, attended the fourth International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases held in Montreal from September 17 to September 21.

Prince Edward Island's Premier Alexander Campbell recently announced that he was resigning his job and his seat (Liberal) in the provincial legislature.

The Manitoba Health Services Commission reports that gross earnings of doctors in the province in 1977 averaged \$60,440, up 7.9 per cent from the 1976 average of \$56,010.

Canadian farm cash receipts reached \$6.66 billion in the first seven months of this year, up 16 per cent from figures recorded a year earlier.

The unemployment rate in August was 8.5 per cent seasonally adjusted, compared with 8.4 per cent in July, but the jobless total declined by about 35,000, according to Statistics Canada.

Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais recently opened three new facilities of the Canadian Corrections Service in the prairie region. The new facilities, all located in Alberta, are a parole sub-district office in Lethbridge; Scarboro Centre, a larger community correctional centre in Calgary; and Edmonton Institution, a maximum security penitentiary in Edmonton.

Canada will be one of nearly 400 exhibitors at the forty-eighth World Travel Congress of the American Society of Travel Agents to be held October 15 to 18 at Acapulco, Mexico. Participants in Canada's exhibit are the Canadian Government Office of Tourism, the provinces of Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories and the private firms of Zap Systems and Transum Worldwide Service.