

Philately prizes in Switzerland

Philatelists who showed Canadian and British North American exhibits took six of 32 large gold medals, two other gold medals and one vermeil medal at the Internaba 1974 philatelic exhibition held recently in Basel, Switzerland.

The only honour prize for overseas exhibitions given at the international show also went to a Canadian - G.E. Wellburn, of Victoria, British Columbia.

Finally, the exhibit of the Canada Postal Museum won a silver medal from Internaba and another silver medal from the Universal Postal Union. These medals were the highest honours awarded to exhibits for postal museums and postal administrations.

Canada was represented for the first time at an international exhibition by the National Postal Museum which will open on September 27.

Some 60,000 people visited the exhibition and, according to Jim Kraemer, Manager of the Museum, there was a great demand for Canadian stamps.

Canada will be host to a similar exhibition in 1978.

Alberta pays farmers for damaged crops

The Province of Alberta has approved funds amounting to \$33 million providing compensation payments to farmers eligible under the adverse weather-damage compensation program and/or interest payments on guaranteed loans for farmers who were unable to harvest their crops last autumn.

Payments of up to \$28 million will be made under the adverse weather-damage compensation program. Cheques should be in the mail to farmers by the begin-

ning of August. These funds will provide some relief during a period when farmers are experiencing difficulties of low livestock returns and escalating input costs.

Fourteen thousand applications have been received for the adverse weather-damage compensation program. The \$28 million will be compensation to farmers suffering losses in cereal, oil-seed and forage seed crops that were damaged by snow, floods and mice in 1973. The maximum acreage on which compensation is to be paid is 200 acres and the maximum compensation for each farm is \$5,000. Applications for the program closed July 2.

The remuneration of an MP

Canadian members of parliament and senators, receive \$18,000 a year plus travelling expenses between their place of residence or constituency and Ottawa.

In addition to this indemnity as an MP, the Prime Minister is paid \$25,000 a year and a cabinet minister and the Leader of Opposition in the House of Commons \$15,000 a year. Additional annual allowances of \$4,000 are provided to each leader of a party having a recognized membership in the House of at least 12 members, and to the Chief Government Whip and the Chief Opposition Whip. Parliamentary secretaries to the various ministers receive an annual allowance of \$4,000.

There are several considerations as to the proper size of the indemnity paid to a member of parliament. It must not be so low that desirable candidates will refuse to run because they cannot make ends meet, and in this connection, it must be kept in mind that an MP usually has to maintain two residences - one in Ottawa and one in the constituency. Nor should it be so low that in order to maintain his or her position the member is compelled to secure an additional income derived either from private resources, or from outside interests or organizations, or from other activities which may seriously interfere with work as an MP.

On the other hand, the indemnity must not be so high that it raises suspicion in the minds of electors that members are raising their own salaries unduly.

The members of the first Assembly

in Canada in 1758 were paid nothing; and those of the first Dominion Parliament received \$600. The amount has since been raised on several occasions, and in 1954 it was set at \$10,000 a year, \$2,000 of which represented a tax-exempt expense allowance. Before 1954, the remuneration was based on the session, and might, therefore, be paid twice in one year. But increased pressure of work, the longer period in Ottawa, the greater need for two sessions, and the growing impossibility of the members finding time for other employment, were thought to be sufficient to warrant an increased annual remuneration.

University research in transportation

During the next three years \$1.7 million will be available for the development of studies on transportation at Canadian universities. The beneficiaries will include the Universities of British Columbia, Manitoba and Montreal, as well as the Universities of Toronto and York, which have a joint program. The purpose of this program, now entering a second three-year phase, is to improve the availability of well-trained people for the Canadian transportation industry and to encourage research into transportation problems at universities.

Canada's forestry industry

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Plants may be killed outright by air pollution, but most do not die until they have suffered injury for some years. Evergreens are, in general, more sensitive than deciduous trees, and important species like white pine are highly susceptible.

In Canada, some 6.5 million tons of sulphur dioxide are emitted annually in three main areas, and some 60 per cent of the affected area is forested land.

Collaboration between federal and provincial governments, the industry and the universities in such matters as forest-management practices and ecological research is increasing. And, says the Canadian Forestry Service, the impetus for this collaboration must come from an informed and concerned public.

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