

Ottawa/Manitoba program to boost wild fur industry

An \$8.3-million agreement for the development of the wild fur industry in Manitoba has been approved for signature, Harvey Bostrom, Manitoba Minister responsible for Lands, Forests and Wildlife Resources, and Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, announced this month.

The five-year agreement includes provisions to help offset such problems as high trapping costs, low returns to producers, difficulty of access to resources, inadequate sources of credit, and ineffective organization of trapping activities.

An estimated 28,000 people in Manitoba earn their living from wild fur resources. A substantial number hold registered trap-line licences in remote areas, where the problems are particularly acute. About two-thirds of the licencees are Indian people.

Major items in the agreement are \$2.4 million in loans to help in fur marketing, \$830,000 for grants for trap-line development, and \$970,000 for research and development. Construction of fur depots, fur marketing, trapper-education, grants to participating agencies and program evaluation are also covered.

The programs will provide sources of credit at reasonable interest rates, increase the trapper's share of the auction value of wild furs, increase stocks of fur-bearers for harvest, and speed the use of humane trapping methods. The program will provide extensive experimentation with techniques using existing and new equipment as well as money to buy equipment and wages for trappers engaged in testing humane traps. Some funds will be used for humane traps for initial distribution to trappers.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada. Algunos números de esta publicación parecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

The value of wild fur harvested in Manitoba in 1972/73 was \$3.6 million. Trappers and government officials agree that a sustained annual harvest of up to \$8 million is possible. The short-fall is blamed on financial and social problems facing the industry.

Registered trappers currently receive about 60 per cent of market value of their furs, and income over the next five years could be as low as \$5.5 million. Expanded production, stable prices, and an increase in the trapper's share to 75 per cent of the market value, could increase this figure by more than \$10 million.

The programs are also aimed at raising the status of the trapper, improving poor accommodation, helping to overcome isolation, and reducing the number of people on welfare.

Second turbo for Ottawa-Montreal

Improvements in frequency and schedules to the Ottawa-Montreal rail passenger service, and the addition of a second fast Turbo between the two cities, were announced recently by Canadian National.

Garth Campbell, CN's vice-president of passenger marketing, said that the improvements were representative of a long-term CN program to upgrade passenger train services in many parts of Canada.

"Introduction of a second Turbo (on April 27), coupled with faster schedules for conventional trains, will provide travellers with the fastest rail service ever available between Ottawa-Montreal," he said.

The Turbos - departing each city twice daily Monday to Saturday and once on Sunday - will cover the 115-miles between Ottawa and Montreal in one hour 49 minutes.

Hebrew university jubilee medal to McGill principal

When the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was formally inaugurated on April 1, 1925, two Canadian universities were represented at the ceremonies, McGill University and the University of Manitoba. This year, during the celebration of its golden jubilee, the Hebrew University presented its

official medal to the principals of these two universities.

The presentation of the medal to Dr. Robert Bell, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill, took place on April 22 in the Principal's office on the 5th floor of the F. Cyril James (Administration) Building on the McGill campus. Dr. Bell received the medal from Allan Bronfman, Vice-Chairman of the International Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, who was accompanied by Michael Greenblatt, National Vice-President of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and Daniel Ben-Natan, Assistant to the President of the Hebrew University. Also attending the ceremony were Chief Judge Alan B. Gold and some members of the McGill faculty.

Since the foundation of the Hebrew University, a number of students from McGill have participated in its programs in Jerusalem and several graduate students from the Hebrew University have pursued postgraduate work at McGill. Several McGill professors served on the staff of the Hebrew University as visiting professors.

Computer installations increase

The number of large computers installed in Canada as of May 1, 1974 totalled 3,897, up from 3,288 in 1973 and 2,934 in 1972, according to the Canadian Information Processing Society's annual census. (A "large computer" is defined as one with a monthly rental value of \$1,000 or more.)

IBM holds a wide lead over its competitors with some 39 per cent of all large installations, compared with its nearest competitor, Honeywell, at about 12 per cent. It is estimated by the Maclean-Hunter Research Bureau that there will be 7,245 large computer installations by 1980.

Canadian imports of electronic computers and parts increased to an estimated \$354.9 million in 1974 from \$176.3 million in 1970. The majority of imports come from the United States.

By international comparison, Canada ranks second in the number of computers installed per million population, according to the Science Council of Canada. The leading countries are: U.S. 417 per million of population, Canada 177, Britain 137 and Japan 83.