

It is planned to hold a tripartite conference in Ottawa, convened by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Bryce Mackasey, possibly in autumn, to consider ratification of ILO conventions and current industrial relations issues of mutual concern to governments, employers and unions. Union, employer, provincial and federal government delegates will meet together for the first time since Canada was host to the Western Hemisphere meeting of the ILO in 1966.

BLACKFLY RESEARCH

Construction of the Gardiner Dam across the South Saskatchewan River appears to be paying an unexpected bonus - the population of livestock-killing blackflies dropped sharply in the area below the dam last year. F.J.H. Fredeen, a river and biting-fly expert at the Canada Department of Agriculture's Research Station in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, surveyed the river above and below the dam during the year. His preliminary counts showed that the total blackfly number remained about the same but the population-balance of species shifted dramatically. There were more of the striped blackflies and fewer of the arctic blackflies than can kill livestock.

There are about 45 species of blackfly common on the Prairies, and Mr. Fredeen's work includes all of them, and the study of effective control measures against those that are pests of man or livestock.

The arctic blackfly, which attacks livestock, breeds mainly in the large rivers flowing from the Rockies, can cause sterility and death and, in some cases, has wiped out large numbers of animals. Imported herdsires are hardest hit, possibly because they carry little or no immunity to the blackfly toxin.

"If changes in the river climate - such as might be caused by a dam - are going to alter the blackfly population, we want to know how and why," Mr. Fredeen says.

CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Minister H.A. Olson announced recently that the Government would hold a Canadian agricultural congress in Ottawa in March 1969. Provincial ministers of agriculture have been consulted and have offered their full-co-operation.

"The congress will provide all groups in agriculture an opportunity to discuss the work of the Task Force on Agriculture, and to give their views on the problems facing the agricultural industry and on the development of national goals and long-range programmes and policies to deal with these problems," the Minister said.

Representatives from farm organizations, provincial departments of agriculture, food-processors, consumer groups, marketing agencies, farm-supply organizations, professional groups, federal departments and agencies, and from other groups connected with the agricultural industry, will be invited to attend the meeting.

The preliminary report of the Task Force on Agriculture will be sent to all those planning to take part in the conference several weeks in advance so that their briefs and opinions can be circulated. About half the time of the congress will be devoted to plenary meetings and the other half to workshops.

"This Canadian agricultural congress, where all segments of the agricultural industry will meet as a group to discuss long-term solutions to basic agricultural problems, will be the first of its kind in Canadian history," Mr. Olson said. "It is my belief that this congress, together with the final report of the Task Force, will contribute materially to the establishment of agricultural policies which, in the years ahead, will make agriculture an equal partner with other important sectors of the Canadian economy."

CANADIAN REVIEW OF UN PEACE-KEEPING

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major powers represented in this organization, will at last be bridged so that future peace-keeping can be carried out on a generally acceptable basis. I must say also that our hopes for the future will be greatly enhanced if the long-standing deficit in the United Nations budget, as a result of past disagreements over the financing of peacekeeping operations, is once and for all eliminated. We regret very much the continued existence of this problem, which undermines confidence in our organization and has a depressing effect on all those who have done their best to support the United Nations financially and in every other way. I would therefore appeal to those member states, which have not yet done so, to consider what contribution they can make, and soon, in response to the consensus reached on September 1, 1965 - a consensus which has been endorsed by Resolutions 2053 (A)XX, 2249 (X-V) and 2308 (XXII). As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations the appropriateness of magnanimous gestures to this organization can only increase. I should like to express the wish therefore that, before the twenty-fifth anniversary is reached, those additional necessary voluntary contributions will have been made so that the existing deficit will be eliminated; and so that the future may be faced, as the Secretary-General has frequently urged, with renewed hope and confidence.