

## PARIS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Canada was represented at the Second Session of the Conference of French-Speaking Ministers of Education, which took place in Paris earlier this month.

The delegation, which was led by Mr. Jean-Marie Morin, Quebec Minister of State for Education, included representatives of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, as well as federal foreign affairs advisers.

## YOUNG STAMP DESIGNERS CONTEST

A Christmas stamp design project, aimed at an estimated 6 million Canadian children under the age of 13, was launched by the Canada Post Office on November 19. Canadian children are invited to contribute drawings on the theme "What Christmas Means to Me", which will be used to produce distinctive stamp designs.

Departments of education in all provinces are co-operating in the project, which will coincide with International Education Year (1970).

The Canada Post Office customarily issues two special stamps to mark the Christmas season; these stamps are usually designed by professional artists. Several designs by children will be used for Christmas 1970.

The young artists may submit their designs up till January 15. Selection will be made initially on a provincial basis and, subsequently, at the national level.

Provincial panels, including directors of art galleries, artists, art educators, and members of the Advisory Committee on Stamp Design, will help in the first selection of designs and, when final selections on the national level have been made by the Advisory Committee, the Canada Post Office will invite the successful entrants (with a parent or guardian) to Ottawa, where they will view the stamps produced from their drawings. Later, with the aid of the galleries, touring exhibitions of the drawings and designs submitted will be organized for the public.

## PROBLEMS OF GRAIN HANDLING

A less costly and more efficient system of transporting and storing grain was proposed by Mr. Otto E. Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, in an address to the annual meeting of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Calgary earlier this month.

Mr. Lang, who also warned that farmers may have to reduce their wheat acreages, emphasized the fact that the sales effort of the Canadian Wheat Board had maintained Canada's share of the world market in the face of stiff international competition.

Mr. Lang said that the block system of transportation would be extended to all delivery areas by the opening of navigation next spring. This system,

which was tested this year, will permit a substantial saving in railway equipment required to move a given amount of grain and is a more reliable means of programming the movement of grain from the country to terminal elevators.

The Government has a responsibility to ensure that Western farmers are accurately informed of the sales prospects before the critical time for decisions on spring planting so that the sales opportunity can be met with the lowest possible expense.

"In many cases, it may be that a clear understanding of the market opportunities for the coming year would lead farmers to the conclusion that they should not invest their revenues from sales in further production," Mr. Lang said. He suggested that farmers might "reduce their inventory by the amount of sales and thus put themselves in a more liquid position, with more of their revenues remaining free to provide a reasonable living income for the year".

## COST REDUCTION

A means of reducing storage and handling costs that requires urgent attention is the reduction of the number of country elevators from the existing 5,000 at some 2,000 delivery points across the Prairies. "The grain industry requires a total transportation and storage and handling system that has the capacity to meet very large exports in some years without being unreasonably expensive to carry during years of lower export sales," Mr. Lang said.

Canada's share of the world wheat market, he continued, had held up amazingly well in spite of a decrease in the total world trade of wheat. Canada's exports dropped about 10 per cent in the 1968-69 crop year compared to those of 1967-68. At the same time, exports from the United States dropped by nearly a third, while Australia showed a decline of some 25 per cent.

Mr. Lang reiterated his own support and that of the Government for the Canadian Wheat Board, and said he would make sure the Board was not called on to administer or be heavily involved in any agricultural program that did not materially assist it in performing its selling function.

## CANADA'S POLICY IN NIGERIA

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no public entreaties or complaints. We thought that the Biafran fears were unfortunate and, indeed, that they were unjustified, but we nevertheless attempted to meet them. We consulted with United States officials, and in particular with Ambassador Clyde Ferguson, who is President Nixon's relief co-ordinator, and whose exhaustive trips into the area and discussions abroad have made him probably the most knowledgeable and qualified person in the world on this question. A formula of assurances was devised which we sincerely thought met every one of the Biafran military objections.