



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 3 No. 19

March 19, 1948.

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**STUDYING RAIN MAKING:** A meeting held in Ottawa last week on the highly controversial subject of rain making by seeding clouds with dry ice may well prove to be an historical milestone, writes Andrew Thomson, Controller, Meteorological Division, in an article just prepared for the Press. Chaired by Deputy Minister of Transport C.P. Edwards, it was attended by such high-level representatives as President C.J. Mackenzie of the National Research Council; Andrew Thomson, Controller of the Meteorological Division; E.L. Davies, Deputy Director of Defence Research; Dr. E.S. Hopkins of the Department of Agriculture; as well as by aeronautical experts and Government legal men. The Canadian scientists sat down to analyse objectively the volumes of reports on the subject, both fictional and scientific, and to map out a campaign for the Canadian Government.

"The Canadian Committee of scientists recommends that all aspects of rain making be studied under the auspices of those various government agencies best qualified to undertake the work," writes Mr. Thomson. "That means that both the theoretical physicists and the meteorologists will have a hand in the experiments. So will the agriculturists, the military forces and the aeronautical engineers. In Canada, with an over-abundance of stratus cloud for almost any given part of the year, field work should be easy. That is, it will

be easy to find the right cloud, but the organization of aircraft for the seeding, of photographic equipment for recording the results, of radar equipment for analysis of precipitation types, and of meteorological observing stations on the ground, will require the combined efforts of many government departments. It will be up to the meteorologists to determine, for example, the frequency of occurrence of various cloud types and the best part of Canada in which to conduct the field experiments. And one other factor which the committee has not overlooked the legal aspect of dumping several thousand tons of rain or snow on unsuspecting citizens when they have every right to expect that divine providence might have dictated otherwise.

"The question is not, 'Can we make it rain?' The answer to that seems to be an unequivocal yes. The question is rather, 'Can rain be produced artificially on such a scale that it will be of some assistance to the national economy?' Artificial rain making to be worthwhile must be more than just another stunt which can be arranged for spectators at the local county fair. Can precipitation in useful quantities be artificially induced from clouds under conditions where and when the best meteorological estimates agree that it will not fall naturally? That is the question which Canadian scientists have now undertaken to settle."