

### HAIL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Department of Transport's Meteorological Branch will again participate in intensive studies on the hail problem in Alberta this summer, it was announced by Andrew Thomson, Director. The project is a continuation of the considerable research carried out with other scientific agencies during the past two summers, he declared.

Commenting on the annual damages of \$20 million in Alberta and \$30 million in Saskatchewan over the last few years, Mr. Thomson said: "The aim of the project is to learn more about the natural processes by which hail forms. The new knowledge we are now gaining is bringing us considerably closer to the day when a scientifically sound opinion can be given on preventive measures to lessen the hail hazards."

Co-operating in the project with the Meteorological Service of Canada are the National Research Council, the Research Council of Alberta and McGill University. Some 15,000 Alberta farmers are taking part in the project by supplying the research team with specific information in an area believed to be unique for its high incidence of hail storms.

#### USING RADAR WEATHER SCANNER

The principal research tool is a radar weather scanner that has been set up at the R.C.A.F.'s station at Penhold, Alta. During last summer's four-months investigation, hail occurred eight days out of every ten in the 15,000 square mile area under study. Cloud photographs were taken every half minute whenever hail clouds could be observed from Penhold and time-lapse photography has played an important part in analysing the data.

Special equipment has been designed and built at McGill University to correlate various aspects of the study. Dr. R.H. Douglas, the "Met" Service's research specialist in cloud physics has been working closely with Prof. J.S. Marshall's "stormy weather" group in the preparation of the complete report on the 1957 hail program now expected to be available next month.

"It is our intention," explained Mr. Thomson, "to carry on a similar program of investigation of hail storms this coming summer with possible additional studies by means of lighting flash locators and microscopic studies of hailstones. Altogether the project should shed much light on the structure and life cycle of the destructive hail storms occurring across Canada."

#### DATA AVAILABLE TO ALL

The research project into the basic causes of hail was not to be confused with the large scale commercial hail-suppression operations in the region north and south of Calgary, Mr. Thomson explained. "As in the past two summers all the data collected during the course of

our investigations will be made available to all interested parties. This information will include radar data, related hail observations and other meteorological reports. We're anxious to provide all the answers that meteorological science can give at the present time to the hail problem in Alberta."

Concerning the effectiveness of cloud seeding to suppress hail, the Director of Canada's Meteorological Service stated that results in the Calgary area have been inconclusive to date.

"As is well recognized, evaluation of the effects of cloud seeding of the present type on hail fallout is exceedingly difficult. Development of a means for doing so probably awaits more knowledge of the physical processes. In 1956 the commercial target area seemed to have less hail than would be expected.

"In 1957 the record on hail losses in the suppression area compared with the rest of the province was high enough to suggest that no suppression was effected. However, statistics on hail losses show such great variability from year to year that it is impossible to predict the incidence of hail for a single year in any given area."

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### AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR

Dr. Kurt Waldheim has presented his Letter of Credence as Austria's first Ambassador to Canada.

Dr. Waldheim, who was born in 1918 and has served in Paris and New York as well as in various capacities in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, was appointed Minister to Canada in 1956. Canada's Mission in Vienna became an Embassy late in 1956 and the Austrian Government have reciprocated by raising their Mission in Ottawa from Legation to Embassy and appointing Dr. Waldheim as the new Austrian Ambassador.

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### NEW POSTAGE STAMP

Mr. William Hamilton, Postmaster General, has announced details of a new design postage stamp to be issued on May 8, 1958. The new stamp will commemorate the centennial celebration this year of the Province of British Columbia.

The stamp will illustrate a placer miner panning gold on the bank of a mountain stream. It was the gold rush of 1858 which opened up a large part of what is now British Columbia to the explorer and pioneer, and which gave great impetus to the establishment of the province.

The new postage stamp was designed by Mr. Jack Harman, of Vancouver, B.C. It is of large size, horizontal format, green in colour and of the 5 cent denomination. The stamps are now being printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, Ontario.

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