other nations, is an international effort to preserve many wild animals and plants threatened by excessive trade.

Tourists travelling abroad will be the main group affected by the restrictions. Articles such as handbags, boots, coats, belts, jewellery and carvings that can be bought in other countries are sometimes made from skin, feathers or other parts of endangered animals. Without proper authorization from the exporting country, the goods cannot be brought back to Canada.

Tourists and other travellers should watch for items made from spotted cat, reptile, or otter skins, ivory, whalebone or tortoise shell, most of which are covered by the convention. If such an article is bought, sales slips or invoices bearing the name of the merchant or store should be retained as proof of legal purchase. If convention permits are issued by the country of origin, an export permit is required. The merchant or store can advise on how to obtain the permit.

Articles or species acquired before July 1 do not need permits. If, however, they are taken out of Canada after that date, a Canadian export permit will ensure that they are not seized abroad or when they are brought back into Canada.

The Administrator, International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, can advise on the species and by-products covered by the restrictions and the permits required.

The Canadian Wildlife Service will issue import permits for species entering Canada and export permits for all migratory birds, fish and marine mammals listed in the convention which are going out of the country.

Electric typewriters not so new

Although electric typewriters didn't really become common until the early 1960s, the Ontario Hydro's historical collection contains one that was made in the Roaring Twenties.

The machine was bought in 1922 by a Burlington, Ontario, woman who used it for freelance writing. In those days, the "Woodstock Electric" typewriter advertisements boasted that it was "powered by Niagara".

Towards better quality dental fillings

A co-operative program between scientists at Atomic Energy of Canada's Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment (WNRE) and the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Dentistry has produced information which is expected to be of help to dentists in the preparation of stronger, longer-lasting fillings.

The work originated from a controversy about a material introduced in 1964 by a graduate student in metallurgy at the University of Alberta as an additive to the standard mercury amalgam filling. The material, a silver-copper alloy, produced fillings with greater strength, less deformation and with a slower corrosion rate.

But there was no general agreement as to why it did so and, because there was disagreement about the additive's role in improving fillings, its use was not made standard; optimum properties were not always attained.

Dr. A. Louka of the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba, wanted to know what structure the dental amalgam alloy formed as it hardened. Because mixing time and the proportions of materials used affected the properties of the filling, the means was needed of determining chemical and structural properties of the amalgam alloys prepared in various ways.

From June to November 1974, Dr. Louka spent about a day a month at WNRE working with Dr. T.E. Rummery and others in the Research Chemistry branch studying the chemical reactions that took place as the amalgam hardened and correlating those reactions with the proportions and mixing time of the amalgam.

Using a scanning electron microscope and X-ray analysis, Drs. Rummery and Louka were able to determine what phases were formed in the material and how variables such as mixing time and ratio of starting ingredients affected the final product.

The next step is left to Dr. Louka and the University's Faculty of Dentistry. After mechanical testing is complete, clinical tests, probably lasting several years, will be used to prove their data. The end result, hopes Dr. Louka, will be standards directing the use of the silver-copper alloy to produce repeatedly higher quality fillings.

Students help immigrants

A group of students at the University of British Columbia is co-operating with the Department of Immigration to provide counselling and other services to Spanish-speaking immigrants to the Vancouver area.

The students are available at a local immigration office to help in finding housing, sorting out money problems and, in general, assisting a group of immigrants who are setting up life in a new country.

The project is funded under the provincial government's Careers '75 program.

Pension bill

A Government bill to pay an old-age pension to a pensioner's husband or wife between 60 and 65 has been introduced in the Commons by National Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde. The bill is designed basically to assist couples forced under present law to live on one pension as their main income when one of the partners is not old enough to qualify for a pension.

First postage stamp

Although the beaver only became the official symbol of Canada on March 18 this year, it has been associated with the country for many years. The first Canadian postage stamp, known as the "three-penny beaver", for example, designed by Sandford Fleming, was issued in 1851, before Confederation, when stamps were issued for the first time in the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.