

TREE DISEASE CONFERENCE

American and Canadian forest pathologists from government agencies and universities in the North-eastern United States and Eastern Canada met earlier this year at Durham, New Hampshire, to discuss the disease problems of trees. Representatives from the participating establishments attending the twelfth annual Northeastern Forest Pathology Workshop presented research results on several economically important tree diseases and discussed the impact that these could have on the quality of forests, their management and utilization.

The meeting concluded that more disease problems could be anticipated in the future from the multiple use of forests for wood products, wildlife sanctuaries, watershed management and recreation. Pathologists, therefore, have to consider the maintenance of forests in a healthy condition for their intended end-uses and to assume some responsibility in promoting the improvement of the forest environment. Part of this responsibility is to reduce wastage of primary wood products from storage defects such as decay and discolouration.

The majority of problems occurred in hardwood species, and included Dutch elm disease (DED), elm phloem necrosis, discolourations in maple, and injury to trees caused by air pollutants. The huge losses experienced among elms killed by DED has created problems in the disposal of infected wood in some areas of the United States. Since the burning of such diseased material is banned in Massachusetts, it is buried to prevent the spread of the fungus by insect vectors to healthy trees. Consideration is now being given to utilizing elm wood in outside chip-storage for the manufacture of pulp and paper commodities rather than allowing this wood to be largely wasted, as at present. In eastern Ontario, elmwood chips are currently being stored with maple chips in outside piles. To date, no trace of the DED fungus has been found, suggesting that the conditions within the chip piles are unsatisfactory for the growth of this pathogen.

CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Some surprising results have been obtained from a study of the public's appreciation of Montreal carried out at the Liaison Pavilion at Man and His World. In the project, called Images of Montreal, visitors were asked which slide, from at least a dozen that were projected on a screen, they would choose to send in the form of a picture-postcard to a friend abroad.

Over half of the 400 visitors who took part in the experiment chose an aerial view of the city, even

though the slide was deliberately not of the highest aesthetic quality, and in fact, suspiciously grey.

The aerial view was specially popular among Montrealers, who preferred it to postcards showing specific parts of the city – the Métro, Place Ville-Marie, Dominion Square, Crescent Street, the harbour, etc. "Those who have lived here the longest time have amalgamated everything as a whole, and so chose the aerial view as being symbolic," said Ottawa student John Pye who, with Neil Raymond, conducted the experiment – part of a larger project, Environment Perception, co-sponsored by Opportunities for Youth and private industry.

Tourists, on the other hand, chose specific areas of the city as most pleasing to them. A view of people boarding the Métro was one of the favourites, but Place des Arts, Place Ville-Marie and the harbour won few votes.

Tourists from small towns in the United States favoured scenes with plenty of people, suggesting the hustle and bustle of a big city. A large number, Pye said, chose as their postcard a view of Peel and Ste. Catherine Streets alive with crowds. Only a few picked specific buildings, such as St. Joseph's Oratory or Christ Church Cathedral. If one part of the city was shown in context with another part, it immediately grew in popularity.

"We had one set of slides that showed a view of Dominion Square. No one voted for it. But in another set Dominion Square was shown with Chateau Champlain in the background and it became a winner," Pye said.

THREE-STAGE EXPERIMENT

The postcard study is the first of a three-stage program, which is being continued at the Liaison Pavilion. In the second stage, visitors will watch the film *A Persistent Seed*, by Chris Chapman, who created the popular film, *A Place to Stand* shown in the Ontario Pavilion during Expo 67. After the film, they will be asked to vote on a numerical scale for the values of city life most appealing to them – nature, colour, privacy, crowds, water, etc. This is designed as an appreciation test to see what the public values most in the city.

In the third stage, visitors will be asked to draw maps of downtown Montreal, indicating the main landmarks.

"The idea of the whole project," Pye explains, "is to give people a chance to plan their own cities in the way that is most attractive to them."

The information will be correlated and the findings turned over to the Montreal City Planning Department, which has expressed enthusiasm over the project. The findings will also be accessible to anyone interested in the future of cities.