

### ALGERIA IRRIGATION STUDY

The possibility of supplying water for irrigation to the Setif region of Algeria will be studied by Tamcon International Limited of Montreal, under a contract with the Canadian International Development Agency.

Such an undertaking would involve construction of canals and pumping-stations to bring water from two hydroelectric reservoirs 36 miles away. The feasibility study is to determine if the project is economically sound as well as define it and determine its cost.

This is one of the projects accepted for study by the recent Canadian mission on aid to French-speaking African countries led by Mr. Lionel Chevrier. The mission has approved for Canadian financing a total of 49 projects in seven countries.

### BOTANY RESEARCH GRANT

The University of Alberta has received a grant of \$400,000 from the National Research Council of Canada for the construction of a unique research facility for the study of plants and animals native to the northern region of Canada.

The facility, which is the first of its kind in Canada, will be a special greenhouse in which temperature, humidity and light can be controlled over long periods. It will be one of several controlled-environment facilities built for the university's department of botany at a total cost of over \$1 million. The other facilities include standard greenhouses, environmental growth-chambers for teaching and research, and controlled facilities for seed-germination and plant-propagation.

The first instalment of the grant, amounting to \$350,000, is to be paid in the fiscal year 1968-69. Subject to the availability of funds, the remaining \$50,000 will be paid in 1969-70.

### NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

These facilities will be located in a new biological science building to be constructed on the university's Edmonton campus at an estimated cost of \$20 million.

The 1,384-foot square controlled-environment laboratory will be the largest of the facilities and, in effect, will be a giant greenhouse in which the environment of northern areas, including that of the Arctic, can be simulated. The laboratory and some of the growth chambers will be used for long-term ecological and physiological studies of Arctic boreal and alpine plants, and for animal experiments in the field of environmental physiology.

Although much of this research can be carried out using growth-chambers and low-temperature rooms, the construction of a controlled-environment greenhouse will provide a facility with maximum radiation, equivalent to northern sunlight, in which temperatures can be kept constant, if required, as low as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

The greenhouse will contain a number of rooms in which different northern and mountain environ-

ments can be simulated, permitting a variety of experiments to be conducted simultaneously in different environments.

Few universities or research laboratories in Canada and the United States possess this kind of facility. One of the few comparable greenhouses in the world is located at the University of Copenhagen.

### CONFERENCE SHIP

British Columbia Ferries now offer a unique public service — the rental of their flagship, the *Queen of Prince Rupert*, as a floating hotel for seminars and conferences. The idea is based on the premise that shipboard life is relaxing, and that people who are relaxed think better, get along better, and do more work.

The *Queen of Prince Rupert*, one of the company's most modern ferries, cruises between Kelsey Bay on Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert on the mainland, from September to May. Conference facilities on board are offered to groups of from 25 to 125 persons.

A round-trip takes three days and two nights, but a group can arrange for a one-way trip or can extend the time for sightseeing, travelling into the interior of British Columbia for a day or two or even making a quick trip to Alaska.

### COSTLY CUP OF CHEER

Federal and provincial governments received revenues of \$715 million from the control and sale of alcoholic beverages in the year ended March 31, 1967, according to a Dominion Bureau of Statistics report, entitled "The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada". This is an increase of \$43 million, or 6 per cent, over the figure for the previous fiscal year. The Federal Government and all provincial governments shared in the higher yield.

The value of sales of alcoholic beverages was \$1,352,000,000 in the current year, an increase of \$87 million from sales in the previous year. The sales figures do not represent final sales to consumers as mark-ups by licencees are not included. Sales by gallon in the current year were: spirits, 21 million; wine, 13 million; beer, 295 million.

The value and volume of exports of alcoholic beverages increased by 7 per cent and 5 per cent from the previous year's figures. The value of imported alcoholic beverages increased by 24 per cent and their volume by 30 per cent.

The report also contains data on production and warehousing transactions; a provincial and territorial government breakdown of revenue, liquor commission assets and liabilities, and value and volume sales by type, Canadian and imported.

According to the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada, 400,000 trees will be needed to make the paper for Bell Canada's 1968-69 directory issue.