

scraped mechanically.

Dr. Toshi Kaneda of the Alberta Research Council studied oil-soaked airstrips in the far north to find what microorganisms thrive on such material. He found a cold-loving (psychrophilic) strain of yeast called *Candida sake* which eats hydrocarbons the way a child eats candy. After this yeast is grown, dried, pressed into pellets and stored, it can be reactivated and cast on a spill, where it will eat the oil and then in turn be eaten by bugs. It's estimated that the yeast can decompose a small spill in a single summer, three or four times quicker than the oil would disintegrate by itself. The experiments are still in the preliminary stage, but Dr. Kaneda hopes that commercial production will be possible in a few years. For more information, write to him at the Council in Edmonton, Alberta.

## Rare Stamps, Rare Replicas

The Canadian post offices are doing their part to help pay for the Olympics by selling both commemorative stamps and metal replicas of them. The first set of at least five sets of stamps featured the Olympic symbol, with the eight-cent stamps costing ten cents, the ten-centers fifteen and the fifteen-centers twenty; the surcharge goes to the Olympics. Last year a set of three metal replicas sold in bronze for \$20; in fine silver for \$50 and in gold for \$750, with a mixed set of the three for \$300. Like the single gold replica, the mixed set was offered in a handsome Canadian maple box with a leather top, while the bronze and silver replicas were presented in jewel boxes. Comparable prices and presentations for the next set of replicas are expected when they go on sale



in the U.S. in November. The stamps themselves, which honour the water sports, will be sold in Canadian post offices in January. For a catalogue, write the post office at 2827 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, K1A 0B5.

## Clean, Clean, Clean, Clean, Magnetized Fresh Air

If you like crisp, pure air, just get some dirty air and scrub it with a C-500 portable electronic air cleaner. The cleaner removes 90 per cent of the dust, soot, smoke and pollen from a 250-square-foot area by first charging the irritants with direct current and then gathering them in electromagnetically. The unit looks like a rather small air conditioner, weighs just twenty pounds, uses less than 50 watts of power and can stand either on its own feet or be mounted to the wall. It can be kept at high efficiency by washing the cell in the sink every couple of weeks. The C-500 is made by Five Seasons Comfort, Ltd., Downsview, Ont., costs about \$129 and is available in some U.S. stores.

## High Fashions for Low Temperatures

More than one thousand selected fashion buyers from the U.S. got free, round-trip tickets to

Canada last year — the government's contribution to the industry's intensive sales campaign which has been going on for seven years. The campaign (or something) is apparently a success: Canada sent \$83.3 million worth of fashion goods to the U.S. last year, almost \$80 million more than it sent a decade ago. Children's outerwear makes up a large part of the total and children's coats are now offered in U.S. mail order catalogues. Canada's 130 clothing manufacturers hope to be selling \$200 million worth of children's clothes to the U.S. market in five years. Americans have found that since Canadian coats must, by necessity, be much warmer, their overall quality is, by necessity, high. U.S. buyers who have never been on a buying trip to Canada may qualify for a free ticket. Check in advance with the Canadian trade office nearest you.

To learn more about the Canadian fashion market, you can subscribe to *Style*, the merchandiser's monthly magazine, for \$12 a year. Write to them at 481 University Ave., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7.

## Bluenose and Other Quilts

Canada's most famous schooner was named *Bluenose* and it is now immortalized in a quilt. The quilt, which won a Design Canada award for crafts, was created by Vicki Lynne Crowe, of Suttles and Seawinds, Ltd., a cottage industry in New Germany, Nova Scotia. The *Bluenose* comes in red or navy with a free-flying pennant and is one of thirty-five traditional and contemporary machine-stitched quilts offered. It takes 150 women on a piecework basis to meet the sales demand in the shop and through its New York