

There may be some difficulty with accommodation. Edmonton is not a major tourist centre. The organizers say there will be about 6,000 hotel rooms available by the time of the Games. They also say they have had a good response to the "home hospitality programme", and that within 50 miles of the city there are many "natural setting" campgrounds. If as many people go to Edmonton as the organizers forecast there could be a lot who will have to make do with camping, and while the winter is cruel in northern Alberta the mean max. and min. in the first half of August are very campable: 23°C (73°F) and 11°C (52°F).

Ten sports

Ten sports are on the Edmonton Games programme: athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, bowls, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and wrestling. Of these, two are not in the Olympics: bowls and badminton, and competition in these is nearly as good as a world championship.

In boxing, cycling, gymnastics, shooting, weightlifting and wrestling, it has to be said that the standard will be below Olympic class.

Canadian swimmers

The swimming standard only just edges up to world class because of the recent emergence of Canada as a world power in the sport. At the Montreal Olympics Canada rated fourth after the United States, East Germany and the Soviet Union in the swimming events, and will be out to prove the point in the Edmonton pool. Strongest competition will be from Britons. Australians, the world's best in the late 1950s and early 1960s, show no sign of real revival yet.

There is no doubting the world class of Commonwealth athletes, on the track at least if not in the field events.

Commonwealth sprinters won the men's 100m (Hasely Crawford from Trinidad) and the 200m (Don Quarrie from Jamaica) at the Montreal Olympics and both can be expected in Edmonton.

In the long distance races British stars such



Roger Bannister overtaking John Landy to win the mile at Vancouver in 1954.

as Brendan Foster and New Zealanders Rod Dixon and Dick Quax will finally cross swords with all the Africans who missed the Olympics, and a special fascination of the Edmonton Games will be to see if the Africans are sustaining the progress they made in the years before the Montreal Games. Such names as Omwanza, Mike Boit, Waigwa and Samson Kimombwa (unheralded breaker of the world 10,000 metres record last year) could all win gold medals on the Edmonton track.

Silver dollar for games

The Royal Canadian Mint has announced the issue of a new silver dollar to commemorate the XI Commonwealth Games at Edmonton, Alberta, in August.

The new silver dollar is the first ever to combine both inset and relief in the engraving.

The reverse, the work of Toronto artist Raymond Taylor, shows the official symbols of the ten amateur sports which will be presented. The symbols are inset around the perimeter, while in the centre the insignia of the Edmonton games, a stylized maple leaf, is treated in raised relief.

The obverse shows an effigy of the Queen by Arnold Machin.

Canadian silver dollars have been struck to mark highlights in recent Canadian history since 1935, when the first was struck to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V. The new dollar will be available in the U.K. through Spink and Son.



Computer to take over the home

By R. I. Croft

A computer system that can help with the cooking, organise the budget and tell you where the kids are, is being marketed by a Vancouver Island company. It costs about C\$2,000 to install and is "worth the cost", according to Dr. Bill Bowie, University of Victoria assistant professor of computer sciences — who is also a partner in the company which has put it on the market.

Arguments in favour of the mini-computer are that it proves itself by handling family budgets and keeping track of bank balances, while at income tax time it is "a real gem". An interesting sidelight on its promoters is that it doesn't seem to have occurred to them that anyone might react with violent antipathy to the prospect of inviting Big Brother to join the family.

"If the wife is baking a cake or making a fancy meal, she could get the recipe instantly from the computer." No one could object to that, but how about the next move? "It is ideal for family messages. Everyone could check in with the computer when they come in or out. It acts like a family notice board."

Checking in at work is one thing, but who wants to check in and out of the home?

The computer could make family calendars obsolete, Dr. Bowie declares: someone can programme all the dental appointments and birthday parties at the beginning of the month and a push of the button will give the information on each day. "No one should forget a wedding anniversary with a computer in the home."

No, indeed: the happy computerised wife has the security of knowing that her computerised husband will read the reminders as he checks in and checks out of the home, dutifully doing what they have jointly agreed that he should do to mark the occasion.

"This is a new field and the potential for growth is almost unlimited," Dr. Bowie proudly claims. The mind boggles. One day we shall wake up and realize that we needn't bother to remember or decide anything at all. It will all be there on the computer: ours but to switch on and do as we read. Our lives will be led for us — until boredom sets in and the nostalgia for spontaneous action inspires some crank to turn off the switch.