

The balsam aphid, a tiny, fast-spreading insect that attacks balsam-fir twigs and stem, has been under investigation by federal forest-insect specialists in Newfoundland since 1949. The main infestation is on the province's west coast, but outbreaks also have occurred in central and eastern parts.

FEDERAL STUDIES

The rate of deterioration of attacked trees, of special concern to pulp-and-paper companies attempting to salvage timber from aphid-infested areas, will be the object of intensified studies by federal forestry scientists. Accelerated federal surveys of the spread of the insect are also planned, as well as tests of insecticides that could provide safe and effective control. Possible control by predators (insects feeding on the aphid) will be investigated further. Attempts to find satisfactory predators have been under way since 1952.

Also discussed at the conference were various management and silvicultural aspects of the aphid problem, including control cutting to eliminate spot infestations, experiments aimed at the possible conversion of balsam-fir stands to spruce or other species introduced from outside the province, and the need for road access to infested areas for control and timber salvage purposes.

The federal Department of Forestry's establishments in Newfoundland, the Forest Entomology and Pathology Laboratory at Corner Brook and the District Forest Office at St. John's, are giving priority to the balsam woolly aphid problem in their research projects, working closely with provincial authorities and the pulp-and-paper industry.

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UNIVERSITY SALARIES

Median salaries of full-time teaching staff at 17 selected universities and colleges in 1962-63 showed small increases over the previous year, according to a Dominion Bureau of Statistics advance release. The 1962-63 median for deans was \$16,031 (up 2.9 per cent over 1961-62); for professors, \$12,972 (2.8 per cent); for associate professors, \$9,858 (1.6 per cent); for assistant professors \$7,778 (1.2 per cent), and for instructors and lecturers \$6,226 (3.1 per cent). For all full-time teaching staff at the 17 institutions, including a small group of ungraded professors, the 1962-63 median was \$8,894, up 2.9 per cent over 1961-62, 5.8 per cent over 1960-61, and 11.5 per cent over 1959-60.

The increase in total full-time teaching staff at the 17 institutions from 1961-62 to 1962-63 (up from 4,557 to 5,016) was 10.1 per cent, and was slightly higher than an approximate increase of 8 per cent for full-time students at the same 17 institutions for the same period.

Median salaries for the various ranks, except for deans, were almost the same for institutions included from Central Canada and from the Western provinces. Median salaries in all ranks for institutions included from the Atlantic provinces were appreciably lower than those for the other two regions.

EMERGENCY HEALTH PLANNING

The second phase of Canada's Emergency Health Plan will begin shortly as a result of recent discussions between the federal and British Columbia governments.

An agreement signed on March 7 by Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and Mr. Eric Martin, Minister of Health Services and Hospital Insurance for British Columbia, provides for the release of advanced-treatment centre units from the national stockpile to the provincial emergency health authorities.

This agreement will be the pilot project for the further development of the national plan. Under it, the federal Department of National Health and Welfare will provide the medical supplies and equipment, at a cost of \$6,000 a unit, to equip advanced-treatment centres. These units, to be established at the request of the province as trained teams are provided for their operation, are designed to render lifesaving treatment near the scene of a disaster and to prepare the injured for movement to hospital.

The provincial government will provide the staff for the centres and assume responsibility for the storage and rotation of supplies to prevent spoilage.

Agreement on the first phase of the plan has been reached between the Federal Government and all provinces except Newfoundland. The initial phase provided additional disaster supplies for existing hospitals that had developed a satisfactory disaster plan.

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MARITIME COLLEGES CO-OPERATE

An interesting kind of academic and scientific collaboration between eight universities and seven research institutions is appearing in the Atlantic Provinces. For adequate historical reasons, the non-professional aspects of university education have been distributed among many liberal arts colleges in the four provinces. Eight of these universities, in three provinces, are now endeavouring to concert their efforts in the sciences, so that benefits will appear to them individually and to the community at large. The association operates through the Atlantic Provinces Inter-University Committee on the Sciences. Seven professional research organizations have associate membership in APICS.

A primary objective of APICS is the creation and consolidation of effective liaison between the undergraduate and graduate science faculties in the associated universities. It is, of course, a matter of considerable importance to universities, to government and to industry that the flow of able young people into the new professions be maintained and expanded. The Ph.D degree is generally accepted as the minimum qualification required for a professional research scientist professor. Increasingly, one or two years of post-doctoral training