

Biggest Gathering

[THOUSANDS OF SCIENTISTS ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING READINGS]

At least 12,000 and possibly as many as 15,000 scientists from more than a hundred countries will meet in Canada this summer in the biggest series of earth study conferences ever held.

The Post Office of Canada will issue four stamps to mark Earth Scientist Year, each honouring the scientist of a particular discipline—geology, geography, cartography, and photogrammetry. Each of the four groups will meet separately and the geologists alone will call together more scientists than have ever met in Canada before.

Papers to be presented at the meetings are expected to break new ground in the study of the earth and what's beneath its surface, to generate

significant economic repercussions in the mining and oil industry, and to have pronounced effects on a variety of pursuits from map making to urban planning. Geographers and geologists, taking advantage of the complexity of the Canadian terrain, will criss-cross the country from the high Arctic to British Columbia to Newfoundland. Scientists will travel by float plane and by foot to the Northwest Territories to see gravelly froth-

produced mounds called Pingos, to the glaciers of Kicking Horse Pass, to the arid land of Medicine Hat and the Manyberries experimental station in Alberta, to the Arctic Archipelago, and even out of Canada to the tropics.

The twelfth International Conference in Photogrammetry will begin July 23rd in Ottawa. 2,000 aerial photographers will study a new system of picture taking called orthophotography, which removes height distortion. The International Geographical Congress will begin in Montreal on August 10, going through the 17th. One of the most venerable of scientific gatherings, the Congress will have a 100th Birthday party at its meeting. Among the major papers will be some on scientific investigations of urban sprawl.

The Sixth International Conference on Cartography and the affiliated International Geographical Union will meet in a joint session in Montreal August 16 and 17, and then the cartographers will move to Ottawa from August 21 to 25. It is

expected that a long-awaited multi-lingual cartographic dictionary will be introduced at the session. The biggest of the conventions will be the last, the 24th International Geological Congress, meeting in Montreal August 19 through 31. Doctor R. E. Folinsbee, the Congress President, said about 7,000 scientists, 3,400 wives or husbands, and 2,000 children are expected. The children will have a Congress of their own.

The Congress will focus on economic geology, particularly oil and mineral hunting. The most innovative material is expected in the field of plate tectonics—an area having to do with the origin and distribution of the earth's land masses.

The theory is that the land rests on unrooted plates that shift over the ages and occasionally collide. Supporting the theory is the apparent fact that the Eastern coasts of North and South America and the Western coasts of Europe and Africa could, if they were portable, be fitted together almost as neatly as jigsaw pieces. The drift of continents affects a formation of oil and mineral concentrations. It is thought that when the land

divides, a salty sea washes through the new valley and in time salt domes form and rise through the mud. Beneath the domes are pools of oil. Oil searchers are now looking for such domes in the Arctic Islands, and the Russians have found them in Eastern Siberia. The assumed land division also is connected with mineral formation. The Red Sea, apparently formed in this fashion, has \$2,000,000,000 worth of copper, lead, zinc and silver under its floor. Prospecting in search of domes has helped give Canada a twenty-one per cent increase in mineral production in one year.

Important new material in planetology also is expected, developed in part from the Apollo studies and the probe of Mars. The geological congress has an accumulation of important material since the last plenary conference in Prague was interrupted by the Russian move into Czechoslovakia.

