

BOTANICAL CONGRESS

Some 4,000 delegates representing universities and research laboratories in 72 countries are attending the Ninth International Botanical Congress which opened in Montreal on August 19, and will continue for ten days. Held every five years, the Congress is meeting in Canada for the first time, with McGill University, the University of Montreal and Sir George Williams College as hosts.

In his opening address, the president of the Congress, Dr. W.P. Thompson, President of the University of Saskatchewan and a world authority on cereal genetics, said that Canadians had made a number of important contributions to botany but that this country lacked funds and facilities for pure research in this field.

At the opening ceremonies an award was made posthumously to the late Dr. K.W. Neatby of Saskatchewan for research in plant genetics. Dr. Neatby, who died last October, was the first Canadian to win this medal awarded to scientists of outstanding merit by the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Chicago.

A number of the papers presented were of general interest. In an address on Botany and Human Affairs, Dr. E.C. Stakeman, a distinguished U.S. botanist, warned of the O - bomb - the over-population bomb - and of the need for increased food production. He suggested that the United States and Canada were neglecting agricultural research, while undertaking to instruct less-developed countries in agricultural methods.

According to Dr. Stakeman about 25 per cent of crops planted in the United States - enough to feed 50 million people - are destroyed or wasted each year. In his opinion, if nations now spending huge sums on atomic research spent equivalent amounts on agricultural research, the world would be a better and more promising place for future generations.

DARWIN CENTENARY

This year the Congress is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species". Exhibits devoted to the theory of evolution have been on display at McGill University and centennial lectures and symposiums have been part of the programme.

BOTANICAL DRAWINGS

Consular representatives of many of the 70 countries represented at the Congress were present at the opening of an exhibition of botanical watercolours on August 18 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Four Canadian artists are represented in the exhibition of paintings of flowers and fungi. They are: Mrs. Agnes Chamberlain who illustrated the nature books of Catherine Parr Trail, circa 1885; Henry Jackson, a Montrealer who painted native fungi, Robert Holmes of Toronto whose subject

SALE OF URANIUM

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has issued a statement of Government policy with respect to the sale of uranium, as follows:

"In compliance with Government policy that every effort be made to sell to friendly countries or organizations of friendly countries, the production of Canadian uranium that is not required to fill existing contracts, it was announced on May 7th, 1958, that private producers would be permitted to sell such material in lots of not more than 250 pounds to a country not holding an agreement with Canada for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the total of such sales to a country not holding such an agreement to be limited to 2500 pounds.

"It has now been decided that it would be to the advantage of the Canadian uranium industry to allow any part of, or the entire 2500 pounds to be supplied by one producer. This change in policy will become effective immediately.

"It will continue to be necessary to obtain a permit from the Atomic Energy Control Board and the Department of Trade and Commerce and there will be no change in the 2500-pound limit to one country."

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TRADE WITH JAPAN

Mr. D.M. Fleming, Minister of Finance, has announced the conclusion of discussions with the Ambassador of Japan relating to the export of textile fabrics and garments to Canada from Japan. The Japanese Government has decided that for the remainder of this year their license approvals for garments of spun rayon will be kept down to very low levels. In addition the Japanese Government has undertaken a comprehensive check system designed to keep under surveillance the whole field of textiles and to ensure that Japanese exports to Canada are kept on an orderly basis and that no "flooding" should occur in the future. In the operation of this system the Japanese authorities have undertaken to keep in close contact with representatives of the Canadian Government.

Mr. Fleming expressed the hope that, as a result of the understanding now reached, a firm basis would be laid for orderly participation by Japan in the Canadian market and for the sound development of beneficial two-way trade between the two countries. He noted that Japan was a valuable and growing market for Canadian wheat, barley, metals and pulps and looks forward to the further development of exports in other fields including coal and uranium.