

RECORD SALES FOR POLYMER

Mr. Donald C. Jamieson, Minister of Defence Production, recently tabled in the House of Commons the annual report of the 1968 operations of Polymer Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries.

Mr. Jamieson noted that the company reported a net income of \$7,038,000 on record sales of \$142,102,000. The total volume of reproduction reached 685 million pounds of rubbers, latices and resins. Dividends in the amount of \$3 million were paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federal Government.

The Minister observed that the decline in profits in 1967 was reversed by significant cost reductions and operating improvements, despite the rising cost of doing business and substantial non-recurring expenses, including those related to the start-up of new facilities.

POLLUTION BATTLE

The anti-pollution programme at the company's Sarnia plant received major attention, with substantial expenditures for installation of facilities to remove contaminants from water effluents. Mr. Jamieson also indicated that the boilers at its steam and power plant would be converted from coal to gas fuel in 1969, virtually eliminating discharge of fly ash and sulphur oxides to the atmosphere.

He called attention to the strong research and development programme that had enabled the company to meet the challenge of technological change.

The Minister expressed pleasure with Polymer's continued success and contribution to Canada's economic growth and its international reputation. He commented favourably on the company's effective allocation of resources, establishing a sound base from which it could meet world competition and move forward to profitable growth.

ZOO ASSET TO OTTAWA

According to the *Ottawa Citizen* one of Canada's best-known zoologists, Al Oeming, says that a good zoo is as necessary to the capital, and "as big a cultural asset", as either the National Gallery or the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Oeming, who is the founder and director of the Alberta Game Farm, declared that space was one of the most important considerations in planning a zoo, because of the need for expansion. He estimated that \$1 million would be needed to start a zoo of reasonable size in Ottawa, with annual operation costs of \$250,000.

"Animals," Mr. Oeming, said, "are one of the last universal items that everyone can understand and accept, regardless of language barriers or prejudices they may hold." He expressed the opinion that Ottawa was in a good position to establish an excellent zoo, not only because of possible support from

federal, provincial and municipal governments but also that gifts of animals from the governments of other countries might be received in the capital.

Zoos, according to Mr. Oeming, were first established by the Chinese some 3,000 years before the birth of Christ. They were called "intelligence parks".

CROP INSURANCE FOR QUEBEC

The federal Agriculture Minister, Mr. H.A. Olson, and the Quebec Agriculture Minister, Mr. Clement Vincent, have announced that the Federal Government will contribute about \$1,200,000 to an experimental crop insurance programme benefiting Quebec farmers. Although this programme was initiated last year, federal funds could not be paid until regulations under the Quebec Crop Insurance Act were enacted, as they were in the last week of March.

The programme provides crop insurance for forage and grain crops used as livestock feed, the Federal Government paying 50 per cent of the administrative costs and 25 per cent of the premiums.

The federal contributions, coupled with the provincial government's subsidy, reduce the Quebec farmers' costs to 50 per cent of the insurance premiums.

Unlike other federal-provincial plans, Mr. Olson said that the Ottawa-Quebec arrangement would not include re-insurance or loans by the Federal Government to cover losses in excess of premiums. "Insuring forage and grain crops for livestock feeding is a relatively new venture," he said. "Because of the experimental nature of this programme, the Federal Government cannot under the legislation guarantee losses in excess of premiums and reserves as we do in other provinces through re-insurance loans."

"However, the programme will be reviewed from year to year and actuarial data will be accumulated with the ultimate view of bringing the Quebec programme within the full benefit of the federal crop insurance programme, including the re-insurance and loans provision," Mr. Olson said.

The Quebec plan is in three parts:

(1) Insurance for forage and grain crops used as livestock feed. (The regulations passed recently by the Quebec Cabinet cover this part of the plan.)

(2) A special insurance plan for flue-cured tobacco.

(3) A special insurance plan for cash crop production of forages and grains.

During this fiscal year (March 31, 1968, to March 31, 1969), the Federal Government spent slightly more than \$5 million on crop insurance plans for British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island. There were 64,800 participants who took out insurance covering crops valued at \$188,167,000.

Canadian farm exports are shipped to 130 countries.