

## LOCUST PLAGUE FIGHT

Canada is rushing two *Beaver* aircraft, fitted with insecticide sprayers, to Ethiopia to fight a locust plague that is threatening the crops of Ethiopia and neighbouring countries.

On arrival at Asmara, centre of the anti-locust programme, the aircraft will be handed over to the Desert Locust Control Organization of East Africa by Mr. Michel Gauvin, Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia. The gift, valued at \$175,000, is being made under the Canadian International Development Agency programme.

After a fairly quiet five years, the desert locust is again multiplying in the whole region from West Africa to Pakistan, whose crops are valued at more than \$20 billion annually. The current threat is expected to equal, if not exceed, the plague that swept East Africa in 1958. That disaster, which ended a mere five years ago, invaded a fifth of the world's land surface and affected a tenth of the world's people. Ethiopia alone lost 167,000 tons of grain — enough to feed a million people for a year. One swarm in Kenya was estimated as covering 400 square miles and as containing 40 billion locusts. The orange orchards of Morocco and Guinea and the vineyards of Libya were destroyed.

The Desert Locust Control Organization of East Africa was formed in 1962 as a means of uniting the locust-control efforts of Ethiopia, Somali, French Somaliland, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It is expected that the Sudan will join the Organization, with which it has co-operated for many years.

The DLCO, which is already using three *Beaver* planes in spraying operations, requested this specific type of aircraft when asking for assistance.

## BANK RATE INCREASE

The Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. Louis Rasminsky, announced recently that the bank rate had been increased by one-half per cent to 6½ per cent, effective December 18. Mr. Rasminsky stated that this action reflected the concern of the central bank over the persistence of inflationary price and cost increases during recent months. He noted that interest rates had recently risen in Canada and other countries.

## 1971 CANADA WINTER GAMES

Cities that may be interested in entertaining the 1971 Canadian Winter Games will soon be invited to make their bids. The 1971 Games will be the third in the Canada Games series that began with the first Winter Games in Quebec City in 1967. The second event in the series will be the First Summer Games in Halifax and Dartmouth next August.

The Canadian Amateur Sports Federation, representative of the majority of national amateur sports-governing bodies, is responsible for canvassing prospective host cities. Within the next few

weeks, Mr. John J. Hunnius, President of the CASF, will extend an open invitation to all cities through the provincial premiers.

The Canada Games were begun to provide a major multiple-sport event in Canada in the year between the Olympics, the Pan-American and Commonwealth Games. In making the announcement, Health and Welfare Minister John Munro noted that, in their short history, the Canada Games had already stimulated the growth and development of several sports in Canada and had done much to encourage the continued training of our best young athletes.

Another major benefit is that the Games leave the host area a legacy of excellent facilities which will serve amateur sports programmes for many years to come, the Minister said. The costs of organizing, promoting and staging these games are met through co-operative arrangements between the federal, provincial and municipal governments, with the Federal Government assuming the major share of operating costs and assisting in the development of facilities.

## JOINT COMMITTEE

To further develop the policies, procedures, rules and regulations that govern the staging of all future Canada Games, both summer and winter, a joint committee has been established. The committee consists of representatives of the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport, Canadian Amateur Sports Federation, the national Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate and the provincial directors of fitness and amateur sport. This committee will be in a position to provide definite guide-lines to cities in which future Canada Games are held.

## CANADA-U.S. WATER-POWER STUDY

The Department of External Affairs has announced that the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed to exchange information on the power-market potential of possible hydroelectric developments in the area of the upper Yukon watershed. The exchange of data will help both Governments assess marketing possibilities for power which could justify further studies of the power-development potential of the upper Yukon watershed, including alternative schemes for the diversion of water to supply power developments in either British Columbia or Alaska.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in co-operation with the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources of British Columbia, will co-ordinate the study in Canada, while the Alaska Power Administration, an agency of the United States Department of the Interior, has been given responsibility for United States participation.

During October, Canada's imports rose to a value of \$1,210,958,000 from \$924,710,000 and \$919,596,000 in October 1967 and October 1966 respectively. For the cumulative period January-October, their value climbed to \$10,098,483,000 from \$9,220,920,000 in 1967 and \$8,062,113,000 in 1966.