

### Canadian travel films presented to State of Nevada

Canada's Consul General in San Francisco, Dr. Robert Adams, and Nevada's Governor Mike O'Callaghan were honoured guests, in mid-October, at the annual meeting of the Nevada Library Association in the historic silver-mining community of Tonopah, Nevada.

Dr. Adams was there to present a collection of 40 Canadian travel films to the newly-organized Nevada Library Media Cooperative. The films, which are intended to acquaint prospective visitors with Canada's vacation attractions, will be circulated through public libraries in Nevada and may be borrowed, free, by film users. Similar films are available in almost 400 other communities in the United States through the facilities of the Canadian Government's Travel Film Library.

In making the formal presentation of the prints to Nevada's State Librarian, Dr. Adams noted that a collection of 100 Canadian books had also been donated that same week to the high school in Nevada's capital, Carson City. Canadian book collections, Dr. Adams said, were being made this year to some 200 high schools throughout the United States.

The Canadian Consul General, who paid tribute to Governor O'Callaghan as a good friend to Canada, recalled that the Governor had been an honoured guest at both the Calgary Stampede and at Edmonton's Klondike Days. As a token of that friendship, Dr. Adams presented Governor O'Callaghan with a specially-minted silver coin set commemorating the 1976 Summer Olympic Games in Montreal. The uncirculated four-coin proof set was contained in a case made of Canadian white birch and

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tanned steer hide, bearing the official symbol of the 1976 Summer Games — the traditional Olympic rings topped by the Olympic podium.

Sets of the Canadian coins are now on sale in the United States through banks, coin dealers and American Express, as part of a worldwide distribution system. Three per cent of the face value of the Canadian Olympic coins sold in the United States goes directly to support the U.S. Olympic team through the U.S. Olympic Committee.

### Computer curbs potato blight

Twelve farmers in Thunder Bay, Ontario, sprayed their potato fields with fungicide four times this summer because of information gained from a computer in Ottawa. And thanks to the computer technology, dedication by the farmers and research by a team of Agriculture Canada scientists, potato yields are 50 to 60 percent higher than those produced by disastrous crops in 1973. The loss for that year has been estimated at \$150,000 for the 1,200 acres of potatoes grown for local consumption.

Potato blight, the cause of the devastating famine in Ireland in 1845, killed last year's crop in Thunder Bay but careful control of the disease this summer has produced the better-than-average yields.

The research project is one of few that involved many people — farmers, scientists, provincial agricultural representatives, computer technicians and Agriculture Canada field workers.

Dr. Clive James, a research scientist with the Crop Loss Section of Agriculture Canada's Ottawa Research Station, headed the project, which started in September 1973.

Potato blight is a fungus disease that defoliates the plant, destroying the food factory and stunting the growth of the tubers. Spores also percolate through the soil and contaminate the tubers — a contamination which is seldom recognized — and causes the tubers to rot after a short time in storage.

### Daily check

In June, departmental equipment was put in three of the farmers' fields. It

included a thermohygraph for measuring temperature and humidity, and a rainfall indicator. The farmers were responsible for providing researchers with daily rainfall figures. "None of the farmers missed a single day in getting the readings to us," Dr. James says.

Ray Gammond, of the experimental farm, also checked the equipment twice a week and gathered data on the minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity levels.

This information — combined with similar data gathered at the experimental farm and a federal meteorological station in Thunder Bay — was relayed twice a week to Dr. James in Ottawa.

Using the facilities of Agriculture Canada's Statistical Research Service, the information was fed into a pre-programmed computer which, within minutes, processed the data and recommended whether or not to spray with a fungicide.

The recommendation was relayed back to the experimental farm and to Ontario agricultural representative Robert Lindsay. The computer's decision was telephoned to farmers and also broadcast on a noon-hour weather report on a local radio station.

The computer recommended that spraying was necessary four times during the past summer; the farmers applied dithiocarbamate.

"And the incidence of blight was between 0.1 and 1 per cent," says Dr. James. "The loss was negligible. Yield is about 300 bushels per acre."

Despite assurance from the scientists of the reliability of the forecasting system, some of the farmers omitted to spray a few rows of potatoes.

"You could certainly tell the difference," Dr. James says. "The unsprayed rows were heavily infected with blight."

The same program will be carried out next year in the Thunder Bay district.