

more, and eventually render the land unfit for sorghum cultivation. With IDRC support a new chemical treatment has been developed that may be able to destroy the hitherto indestructible weeds.

The root crop cassava is also a staple throughout much of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Almost since its inception, the IDRC has supported a growing network of cassava research, with the emphasis on increasing production at the small-farm level. Part of this effort is the search for an effective means of controlling the green spider mite, a tiny but extremely destructive pest that is particularly harmful to young cassava plants.

The rapid spread of information about recent research findings is vital to agricultural development, to enable scientists working in similar fields to co-ordinate their efforts, exchange ideas and avoid duplication of effort. The IDRC is already supporting the activities of specialized international agricultural information centres for cassava, grain legumes and farm irrigation, and during the past year approved a further grant to help establish a centre for information on sorghum and millet.

Special projects

The foregoing are just some of the activities of the International Development Centre during the period from April 1976 to March 1977. The Centre also continues to act as a managing agency for the Canadian International Development Agency in the handling of the triticale, cassava/swine and control of wildlife diseases (Kenya) projects. In addition, the Centre acts as the executing agency for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the establishment of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas. Expenditures in support of these and other projects totalled \$2.805 million in the fiscal year.

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News briefs

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will join U.S. President Jimmy Carter and leaders of almost every Latin American country in Washington on September 7 for the signing of the new Panama Canal Treaties, at the invitation of the Organization of American States.

Canada has sharply increased its share of world wheat and flour trade at a time when the market has fallen significantly. In the 1976-77 crop year, which ended July 31, Canada's share of world wheat and flour trade was about 22 per cent, up from the 18 percent level at which it had hovered for three years. The Canadian Wheat Board has sold 62.5 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union for shipment next year from West Coast, Atlantic and St. Lawrence ports. The board does not disclose the value of export sales, but based on current Canadian export prices, the sale has an estimated value of approximately \$180 million.

Capital spending in Canada this year is expected to total \$46.27 billion, up 1.8 per cent from an earlier Statistics Canada estimate and up 10 per cent from the \$42.07 billion spent in 1976.

Despite rising unemployment between 1974 and 1976 some employers experienced difficulty in filling vacant positions, according to a survey published recently by the Manpower Department. Most of the shortages appeared in occupations offering low wages or demanding much skill and training. Sewing-machine operators, domestic maids, restaurant personnel, hairdressers, miners, loggers and diesel mechanics were all in demand during the period surveyed. The number of occupations suffering from a shortage of workers declined from 46 in 1974, to 30 in 1975 and 17 in 1976. The monthly total of occupational shortages, or openings that remain unfilled for 30 days or more, fell from 24,400 in 1974, to 15,700 in 1975 and 10,000 last year.

According to a United States survey, Canadian office workers are better paid, enjoy a shorter work week and benefit from a more generous holiday plan than their American counterparts. The Administration Management Society of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, also learned that 6.4 per cent of Canadian employers have unionized offices, while only 2.1 per cent of U.S. offices are fully represented by unions. In both countries, employers are

beginning to award three weeks of paid vacation after five years of service.

In recognition of a century-old treaty, about one million acres of Saskatchewan land are to be transferred to Indian hands. The recent agreement required more than two years of negotiations between the federal and provincial governments and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians.

Solange Chaput-Rolland and Gerald-A. Beaudoin have recently been appointed members from Quebec on the Task Force on Canadian Unity. Two members have been appointed from Quebec in recognition of the significance of that province's role in the national unity debate, and to assure the best possible representation in the consultations and hearings which the task force will undertake. The task force is prepared to support, encourage and publicize the efforts of the public — particularly of organizations — to enhance Canadian unity, to furnish the public with information about its own initiatives and views concerning Canadian unity, and to provide advice to the Government on unity issues. Mrs. Chaput-Rolland, author, is a member of the executive committee of the University of Montreal; Mr. Beaudoin, a Queen's Counsel, is Dean (Quebec Civil Law) at the University of Ottawa.

The Government will introduce legislation this fall to tighten controls over 100-150 corporations it owns, after a year of controversy about their operations. A key proposal would give Cabinet the power to overrule decisions of Crown corporations' boards of directors through written directives that would be made public. Auditor-General J.J. Macdonell said he was delighted with the federal response. He was particularly concerned last autumn about the operations of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, which paid out \$10.5 million in agents' fees for nuclear power station sales to South Korea and Argentina.

Hudson's Bay Co. has agreed to buy a 34.6 percent interest in Eaton Financial Services Ltd., a subsidiary of T. Eaton Co. Ltd.

The Federal Government has approved a proposal by Boots the Chemists Ltd. of England to acquire control of G. Tamblin Ltd., a Toronto-based drug store chain.