

News of the arts

almost escaped.

Attendance at this year's Stampede topped one million for the second year running. Officials were pleased with the response despite the rain during the opening days of the Stampede, which kept crowd numbers down.

Beer drinkers found themselves in difficulty throughout the Stampede as two of the province's three beer companies were on strike. Reports indicated thirsty suds lovers were following delivery trucks from the province's one operating brewery into Calgary to ensure they would be among the lucky few to have beer available during the celebrations.

This year's Stampede theme was a salute to the Commonwealth in connection with the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton from August 3 to 12. Next year the Stampede will salute solar energy. (Tom Donohue).

Canada proposes porpoise, dolphin protection with whaling pact

All the world's cetaceans — not only whales but all members of that mammalian order including porpoises and dolphins — should be brought under international management, stated Canada at a conference in Copenhagen, July 4 to 7.

Canada's proposal gained the interest of states represented at the meeting, which was described as preparatory to the convening of a diplomatic conference to develop a replacement for the International Whaling Convention that became effective in 1948. Participants at Copenhagen included members of the International Whaling Commission, to which Canada belongs, most non-member countries engaged in whaling operations and other intergovernmental bodies interested in the conservation of whales and other cetaceans.

Canada and other states also want to ensure that any new convention would conform to international practice concerning management by coastal states of living resources within 200 miles of their coasts. To deal with both issues Canada proposed a new structure, modelled on the organization being developed to replace the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF).

Under this new structure an autonomous scientific council would provide advice to a new International Whaling

Commission managing those species now under regulation by the present Commission. These species, for the most part, range beyond 200-mile limits.

The scientific council would also provide advice to coastal states on management, within the areas under their fisheries jurisdiction, of the cetacean species not subject to international management. These species occur primarily within 200-mile limits.

A working group will be convened at which a new draft convention, based on the Canadian proposal, will be discussed. A further preparatory conference will be held at a later date to consider the results of the working group.

Electronic blood hound

A recent article in *The Globe and Mail* by Robert Sheppard reports that a Toronto firm, SCIEX Inc., has developed an electronic "super-sniffer", known officially as a Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA), that detects tiny organic particles in the air.

The instrument, which eventually will be used in the detection of illness, as well as industrial pollution and drugs or bombs at airports, can sense most pollutants in concentrations as low as one part per billion, and many in smaller amounts. Scientists liken the device's sensitivity to the notion of an astronaut's ability, at a great distance from earth, to distinguish the hairs on people's heads far below. It can pick up the sex hormone of the female moth — which is one part hormone to ten billion billion parts air.

Company vice-president Neil Reid says the super-sniffer has the capability to produce a kind of "fingerprint" of the emissions of particular industries. The Ontario Ministry of Environment has purchased one to monitor the emission of PCBs from the smokestacks of a cement company in Mississauga and will report the findings at Environment Assessment Board hearings this autumn.

Although the device analyzes only organic compounds at present, it will become involved in the study of heavy metals in the near future. Scientists are also investigating its potential as a breath analyzer capable of helping doctors reach medical prognoses, and are hoping to use it in analysis of sea water in their search for offshore oil.

Oil prices increased

The third of four scheduled domestic crude oil price increases went into effect July 1 bringing the price of an average barrel of Canadian crude oil at the well-head to \$12.75 from \$11.75. A barrel of imported crude oil of the same quality landed at Montreal costs about \$16. The higher crude oil costs will not be passed on to the consumer until August 30.

"The July 1 increase marks a further step towards international price levels for oil, which is an essential element of Government policy in reaching energy self-reliance," announced Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie in late June.

"This will result in higher prices of petroleum products to the consumer. This is a necessary element of policies designed to stimulate higher-cost oil exploration and production on the one hand, and to dampen consumer demand on the other. The Government is determined to reduce our costly dependence on foreign oil," he said.

The fourth price increase, tentatively scheduled for January 1, 1979, will be reviewed in the light of the average price of crude oil and imported petroleum products in the Chicago area, the price of crude oil in the Persian Gulf, and any extraordinary occurrence affecting world oil supply or price.

Also effective on July 1, 1978 was a levy of 10 cents a barrel charged to all users of domestic or imported crude oil and most imported petroleum products. The money collected from this levy will be used to fulfil the Government's guarantee of world price for the output of synthetic crude oil from the new Syncrude plant which is expected to start operations in the third quarter of 1978. The Government will then reimburse them for the difference between world price and the going domestic crude price.

The Government will also subsidize the differential in the cost of delivering domestic crude oil *via* pipeline to Toronto and Montreal. The subsidy, which permits the continued equalization of crude oil costs at Toronto and Montreal, will cost about \$16 million annually.

With the increase in cost for domestic crude oil, oil import compensation (OIC) payments will be reduced by a corresponding amount from the present \$3.40-\$3.50 a barrel. The domestic price increase will mean a saving of approximate-