

FARM REPORT FROM INDIA

A team of Canadian agricultural experts recently agreed that India might attain its goal of self-sufficiency in food-grain production by 1971, if current trends in Indian farming continue and prices to farmers continued to be favourable.

The experts, led by Dean C.F. Bentley of the University of Alberta, were members of an External Aid Office task force sent to India last autumn to study ways of using Canadian resources most effectively, through Canada's aid programme, to promote India's food and agricultural development.

Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, said that the report was a valuable contribution to the implementation of Canada's expanding programmes of development assistance. The study will take effect over a period of time as new projects and policies are developed in consultation with the Government of India.

BENEFITS TO OTHER NATIONS

Mr. Martin added that the views of the Canadian team may also apply to food and agricultural problems in other developing countries, thus facilitating the Canadian Government's intention to devote a larger share of its current and future aid programme to this vital field.

The experts, who were drawn from the industrial, agricultural and academic spheres, reported that India's ambitious plan to provide a more adequate diet for an increased population by 1971 showed encouraging prospects of success provided the Indian production of such agricultural inputs as fertilizer met the goals on which the Draft Fourth Five-Year Plan was based and provided priorities for agriculture were maintained within the Indian economy. A renewed effort would be required to maintain these advances beyond the early 1970s.

The report points out that Canada can make significant contributions in particular areas of Indian needs - in higher agricultural education and technician- and trades-training, including food technology, in irrigation and land-development schemes; in the provision of fertilizer and fertilizer components; in support of food technology and research, and through participation in plans to improve standards of nutrition.

The report's recommendations are being reviewed by the Canadian Government.

CAR SAFETY CHECKS

The Canadian Highway Safety Council reported recently that four Canadian provinces now possessed legislation providing for compulsory inspection of motor-vehicles. In Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, inspections are designed to have every registered vehicle checked and, while the system is hampered by a shortage of facilities and funds, enforcement is increasing. In Ontario, compulsory inspection is on a selective basis, performed at portable stations to which vehicles are directed by

police. The stations operate throughout the province between May and October.

An effort is being made, says the CHSC, to reduce the number of automobile collisions due to mechanical failure, which is usually attributable to lack of maintenance by the owner. Such mishaps, it is estimated, account for nine per cent of all highway accidents in Canada each year.

In the view of the CHSC, compulsory vehicle checks are a long step toward solving this problem; but the difficulties of adequate facilities are many in a country of Canada's size, which contains 7.5 million registered vehicles.

CAR-CHECK CAMPAIGN

The Canadian Highway Safety Council is again this year conducting a car-check campaign, which will begin on April 1. With the co-operation of many agencies throughout Canada, motorists will be urged to have their cars checked by competent mechanics before the heavy volume of summer traffic begins.

SOS SATELLITE

Canada's satellite communications ground-station at Mill Village, Nova Scotia, carried almost half the total circuit-load across the Atlantic when the trans-atlantic cables were damaged recently.

Transport Minister Hellyer said that the Mill Village station performed its added functions in a highly satisfactory manner and that, in its past and continuing role, it was regarded as one of the important and reliable links in the global system of telecommunications.

The station is also equipped to relay television, as it did during the recent Olympic hockey game between Canada and Russia at Grenoble, France.

MANITOBA TOURISTS

By the end of 1967, almost twice as many tourists had spent nearly three times as much money in Manitoba as they did in 1960. For many years, travel has ranked as a major industry in Manitoba and last year another record was set.

Tourist promotion in Manitoba costs about 29 cents for each visitor. In return, every tourist spends an average of \$41.66. Of that amount, \$1.81 goes to the provincial treasury in the form of taxes. The rest goes to the private sector.

The total amount spent last year by 2.4 million visitors amounted to \$103 million.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MISSION

A Canadian trade mission representing the industries producing medical, dental and hospital equipment left Canada recently for a three-week tour of Europe. The eight-man group, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce, will visit medical educators and hospital administrators in