

GRAIN FARMERS CASH IN

Prairie grain farmers will be eligible for interest free cash advance in the new crop year even though outstanding advances have not been fully repaid, Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Jean-Luc Pepin and Agriculture Minister H.A. (Bud) Olson said in a recent statement.

Speaking to the House of Commons, Mr. Pepin said that as an estimated \$65 million would still be outstanding on July 31 and, as deliveries would not be sufficient for many grain farmers to retire these advances, the Government had to make farmers eligible for the full advance when the new crop year opens on August 1.

Producers will be entitled to advances of approximately \$65 million more than would have been the case if advances in the 1969-70 crop year were reduced by the amount outstanding from the current crop year.

This will have the effect of providing Western grain-producers with advance payment in respect of both their 1968 and 1969 crops, based on a six-bushel quota. Those farmers whose delivery opportunities have been limited this year will be able to obtain an interest-free advance that will provide them with operating funds and their entitlement in the new crop year will not be impaired.

Last November, the Government doubled the maximum advance available under the Prairie Grain Advance Payment Act from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

During the current crop year some 92,000 producers have received advances totalling about \$153 million. Advances are repaid as producers deliver grain to country elevators and at present outstanding advances amount to about \$90 million.

Under the old legislation, the previous highest amount advanced was in the 1960-61 crop year when some 76,000 producers obtained advances totalling \$64 million.

LOAN TO MEXICO

An \$1-million loan to finance the export sale of rails and tie plates to Mexico has been announced by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, His Excellency E. Rafael Urdaneta, Ambassador of Mexico to Canada, and representatives from the Sydney Steel Corporation. (SYSCO) were present at the signing ceremony in the House of Commons on July 3. This loan, which is made by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, brings the total ECIC loans to Mexico since 1960 to some \$108 million.

The parties to the commercial agreements which ECIC is financing are Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico and Ferrocarril del Pacifico, S.A. de C.V., two government-owned railway companies.

The order is part of the continuing rehabilitator

of Mexico's railway system in which first Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation, Ltd. (DOSCO) and now SYSCO have played a large part.

Today's contract brings the total amount of the contracts signed under ECIC's long-term financing program to over \$428 million.

NEW WILDLIFE CENTER

A novel program designed to familiarize Canadians with their native wildlife and landscape has been launched by the Canadian Wildlife Service, which has opened its first wildlife center near Midland, 90 miles north of Toronto.

The center, built at a cost of about \$500,000, has an exhibition hall containing aquariums and displays, and an auditorium for lectures and films. Visitors can explore the four-and-a-half square miles of woods, fields and marsh by following well-marked trails, or guided by staff naturalists.

"In its new program, the Canadian Wildlife Service hopes to give more meaning to the face of Canada," R. Yorke Edwards, staff specialist in charge of the interpretation program says. "Wildlife needs public understanding and concern if it is to survive. Since it is a product of the total landscape, including man with his tremendous influences on it, only public concern and involvement with total landscapes have much hope of improving the wildlife resource."

The Midland center will be used to explain the surrounding northern hardwood forest, while other centers will interpret different environments in other parts of Canada. The next center to be built will be situated at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan, to interpret the Great Plains.

STUDY OF TRANSIENT YOUTH

Young people on the move, from province to province and from suburb to city center, are the subject of a current investigation by the Canadian Welfare Council.

The Council, which will receive financial help for the study from the Department of National Health and Welfare, will look into the problem as it affects Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Halifax, and other areas that attract transient youth.

The Council's research director, Michael Wheeler, who is in charge of the project, makes it clear that the study team has no preconceptions about what he calls "the growing phenomenon of transient youth": "Certain groups," he points out, "view the situation with disquiet. Other claim there is no problem except in the minds of those who are disturbed by this expression of independence on the part of youth."

"For many transients," Mr. Wheeler says, "the only problem may be the absence of cheap hostel accommodation such as is found in most