

News of the arts

International methanol research

Canada has signed an agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to co-operate with other countries in the development of forest biomass (plant material and industrial waste) as a source of energy. It calls for sharing of research findings, co-ordination of national biomass programs, and co-operative research and development and demonstration projects. The other signatories are the United States, Belgium, Sweden and Ireland.

The IEA, which since its inception in 1974 now has 19 member countries, is committed to the investigation and development of alternative energy sources that may reduce dependence on diminishing petroleum supplies.

Additional biomass opportunities outside of the IEA program are also being considered by the Federal Government. According to an independent study, an industry based on the production of a liquid fuel (methanol) from forest biomass could provide significant economic benefits for Canada. The study claims that large-scale use of methanol as an automobile fuel could be feasible in the 1980s. (See also *Canada Weekly*, dated May 31, 1978, Page 5.)

Lacrosse — Canada's national sport

Each country hosting the Commonwealth Games may add a "demonstration sport" — team or individual — not in the program of the Commonwealth Games and, generally, not well-known in other countries. Canada has chosen box lacrosse.

Lacrosse, in various forms, can be traced back to the earliest of Canada's recorded history. It probably has its origins among North American Indian tribes where, initially, it is reported to have been used to develop the strength and stamina of the braves.

Lacrosse has been Canada's national sport for many years — it became official in 1975, when a bill was introduced into the House of Commons to make it so. It is played by men and women, boys and girls.

Box lacrosse (basically field lacrosse played in a closed space much like a hockey rink) emerged as late as 1932, when the Canadian Lacrosse Association

adopted it as the official game — a change regarded, by some, as the main factor in isolating Canada from the mainstream of international lacrosse. (Hockey promoters probably had a hand in its development, as they had their arenas vacant all summer and, from business interests alone, would stand to benefit.)

But Canada re-entered field lacrosse in December 1973, and did well in the world championships the following year. Meanwhile, box lacrosse in Canada continued to grow and is now reputed to have more than 200,000 registered youngsters across the country.

Rules

It is played with a ball, a stick and goals with uprights four feet apart and a cross-bar four feet from the ground. The game is played in an area called a "box" — the same as used in hockey — whose surface can be concrete, asphalt, clay or wood (the best).

The six players of a team usually equip themselves with protective helmets and padded uniforms; and as their sticks are something of personal preference, these they work into shape, to suit the individual player.

British Columbia and Ontario are regarded as "the powers" in lacrosse today. Most national championships involve between six to ten provinces.

Forty top-calibre lacrosse players from Caughnawaga, Six Nations and St. Regis Reserves will form teams in an all-Indian lacrosse game at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton.

The all-star game will be played August 11 in the Edmonton Coliseum and will be watched by several million people around the world on television.

Fitness and Amateur Sport Minister Iona Campagnolo has pledged support for the event with the Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch underwriting costs of transportation, meals and accommodation for team members and staff.

Mrs. Campagnolo believes that the demonstration game is most appropriate in giving recognition to native peoples' contribution to sport in Canada, of which lacrosse is most symbolic.

The late Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968, played lacrosse in his student days at Oxford, and was a member of a combined Oxford-Cambridge team that toured the eastern United States during the Easter vacation in 1932. Most of the team were Canadians.



Caughnawaga Indian lacrosse team which toured Britain in 1876.