

ments of Industry and Trade and Commerce, are visiting Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to examine Canadian airport planning, equipment and technology, with particular emphasis on runway-lighting systems, safety-service equipment, navigational aids and communications systems.

The Yugoslav Government is planning to rebuild or re-equip a number of airports to adapt air transportation facilities to the "jumbo" and supersonic jet age.

The members of the mission are:

Mr. M. Djordjevic, General Director, Belgrade Airport Authority; Mr. Z. Kosovic, Director General, Dubrovnik Airport Authority; Mr. S. Karimanovic, Assistant Operations Director, Belgrade Airport Authority; Mr. Z. Markovic, Technical Director, Belgrade Airport Authority; Mr. M. Stojkovic, Chief, Air Traffic Control, Belgrade Airport Authority.

PENSIONABLE AGE DOWN IN '69

Retirement pensions under the Canada Pension Plan will be paid at the age of 66 in 1969, a year earlier than in 1968.

Reminding contributors to the plan of the reduction in pensionable age, Health and Welfare Minister John Munro pointed out that retirement pensions must be applied for; payment is not automatic. Application may be made at any of the Canada Pension Plan offices in 38 major centres across Canada or at local offices in smaller centres. Applications for retirement pensions under the Quebec Pension Plan must be made to the Quebec Pension Board.

"If you are 66 now, retired, and have been a contributor to the Canada Pension Plan," Mr. Munro said, "get in touch with the nearest CPP office at once. If you will become 66 in 1969, application must be made within three months prior to your birthday." For applicants now 66 or more, payment will begin in January 1969.

The Minister explained that the eligible age for retirement pensions would be reduced each year until 1970, when it would be 65. This is consistent with similar age-reductions in the minimum eligible age for Old Age Security pensions and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

People of 70 or over and who have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan need not to be retired to receive a retirement pension, but they must, like everyone else, apply for it.

BULL VERSUS STEER

Beef farmers may be losing money by castrating bulls. Preliminary results at the Canada Department of Agriculture's Research Station in Lacombe, Alberta, indicate that bulls may produce very good carcasses.

Tests so far carried out have graded bull carcasses between 80 and 90 percent "choice". In addition, research results have invariably shown that bulls grow faster than steers, are more efficient feeders and produce a large "loin eye" of lean meat.

A.H. Martin, carcass-quality researcher, says that bull meat is accepted in nearly every country in the world, yet few bulls are produced for slaughter in Canada. He is studying bull carcasses carefully because he thinks that farmers could save money by raising them for slaughter. Farmers could expect lower production costs from better conversion rates and fewer days to market weight. Also, they would be spared the expense and trouble of castration.

The tests are continuing at Lacombe because several questions remain to be answered. Chemical analyses and other tests of the quality of meat will be carried out and a "taste panel" of experts will judge the aroma, texture and taste of bull meat. Preliminary results have already shown that bull meat is highly acceptable in both quantity and quality of lean meat.

TESTING BOAR MEAT

Similar research with pigs has shown that boars convert feed more efficiently than hogs, their carcasses are leaner, and their meat is tenderer, and of excellent quality.

The last conclusion came from a taste panel, whose members consistently rated boar meat higher for tenderness, though lower for cooking aroma. In the comparison test with other forms of pork, the panel showed a preference for boar meat.

Boar meat is currently banned from the Canadian consumer market.

OTHERWORLDLY MINERAL DISPLAY

A fluorescent mineral display is attracting many visitors to the National Museum of Natural Sciences' mineral hall in Ottawa.

The display has been created by the Curator of Minerals, Louis Moyd, and the museum staff. Under ultraviolet light, the minerals reveal glowing colours quite unlike their normal appearance in natural lighting, varying from intense blues through pinks, purples and orange-yellows to vibrant hues of green.

A magnificent piece of calcite, approximately two feet wide, radiates a fashion-designer's delight of shocking pink blended with violet. An eight-inch piece of California halite, glowing in a single shade of muted terracotta, contrasts with New Jersey calcite mixed with willemite, which gives off luminous greens, pinks and purple.

The specimens in the display are kept at room-temperature, so that the light they emit is "cold", in contrast to incandescent light, which is produced by very hot objects such as the filaments of electric-light bulbs or the tiny glowing particles that make flames visible.