

new or improved wharves, new transit sheds, additions and improvements to grain-elevator systems and loading and unloading facilities. Uncompleted work on major contracts at the year end amounted to \$10,950,000. In addition, \$5,304,000 was spent on the maintenance of existing facilities.

Payments to the Government totalled \$4,202,200, which consisted of \$3,884,000 in interest on loans and \$317,000 in principal. The reserve funds for replacement, fire and general insurance, workmen's compensation and special maintenance were increased by \$1,861,000.

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NEW NORTHERN MONITOR STATION

Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, has been chosen as the site for a new monitoring station, recently announced Mr. Léon Balcer, Minister of Transport. The station will provide control over radio stations in the northern areas of the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia, and the Western parts of the Northwest Territories. With the accelerated activity in the North during recent years, communications facilities have grown rapidly in these areas -- there are now more than 2,500 communications and navigational-aids radio stations, and the number is on the increase. Mr. Balcer explained that control over these facilities will ensure that approved operating standards are maintained and that a fair sharing of the radio spectrum is available to all those needing radio communications.

The estimated cost of the new station is \$100,000, including approximately \$50,000-worth of specialized electronic devices.

The new station will be the ninth in the monitoring service of the Department of Transport's Telecommunications and Electronics Branch. The service was established in 1930 with one station in Ottawa. Full-time stations now in operation are located at Ladner, British Columbia, Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Melville, Saskatchewan, Lakehead, Strathburn and Almonte, Ontario, Beaumont, Quebec, and Hartlen Point, Nova Scotia, the last-named being moved to Montague, Prince Edward Island.

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B.C. WARS ON DOGFISH

For the fifth consecutive year, the Federal Government is providing financial incentive for fishermen in its efforts to control the stocks of the predacious dogfish in British Columbia waters. Fisheries Minister J. Angus MacLean announced recently.

Mr. MacLean said that \$150,000 had been earmarked to cover special payments to fishermen at the rate of 12 cents a pound for dogfish livers delivered to oil plants and collecting stations. The programme is effective immediately and will continue to the limits of the funds available to March 31, 1962.

This year the dogfish-destruction programme is being started as early as possible; in other years, it did not begin until midsummer. Mr. MacLean pointed out that it was desirable to have the subsidy available earlier in the year, when large runs of dogfish were to be found. An early start would also enable fishermen to supplement their earnings before the main salmon season opened.

DOGFISH A PEST

The dogfish, which is a member of the shark family, has caused extensive damage to fishing nets and gear, and also preys on the more valuable food fishes. In some areas they have become so numerous at times that commercial fishing has been severely curtailed. Tide-water sports fishing, one of the province's most popular tourist attractions, has also been harassed by the ubiquitous dogfish.

The dogfish menace became serious following the end of the Second World War. During the war there was a thriving commercial demand for dogfish in British Columbia waters because oil extracted from their livers is rich in Vitamin A. After the war, with the advent of a synthetic Vitamin A oil and the availability of less expensive oils from other sources, the fishery ceased. As a result of this, the dogfish population multiplied rapidly causing extensive damage to fishing gear and preying on the supply of food fishes.

Although it is too early to evaluate the effect the programme has had in reducing the dogfish population, there are indications that over the past two years the predation by dogfish in the Gulf of Georgia is not as extensive as had occurred before the introduction of the control programme.

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VANCOUVER FESTIVAL

At least five "firsts" will be included in the six-week programme of Vancouver's Fourth International Festival. The Festival's will feature the North American *première* of Benjamin Britten's latest opera "A Midsummer Night's Dream", which will be performed at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on August 2. The famous New York City Ballet will make its Canadian debut when it opens the Arts Festival in Vancouver. Irmgard Seefried, celebrated soprano from the Vienna State Opera, will forsake the Salzburg Festival for the first time since 1946 to make her first appearance in Vancouver.

A new figure in the conducting field will make his first Vancouver appearance at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on August 18. Zubin Mehta, 24-year old Indian-born music director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, will conduct the Festival Symphony Orchestra in Walton's 2nd Symphony and Brahms's 1st Piano Concerto. Glenn Gould will be the soloist.

The 1961 Festival starts with the Vancouver International Film Festival, to be held from