

## CULTURAL DEPARTMENT FOR QUEBEC

A bill now before the Quebec Legislature provides for the establishment of a Department of Cultural Affairs. The new department will include a French Language Office, a division concerned with relations with French-language groups in other provinces and in the United States, a Provincial Arts Council, and a Commission on Historic Monuments.

Explaining that the government aimed at making the Province of Quebec a centre for the preservation of the French culture of North America, Premier Jean Lesage emphasized the importance of this culture in maintaining Canada's national identity. He noted that there were 2,000,000 persons of French-Canadian extraction outside Quebec of whom, 478,000 lived in Ontario and 340,000 in the State of Massachusetts.

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## WINTER WORKS GOAL REACHED

Mr. Michael Starr, the Minister of Labour, recently announced that the objective of the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Programme, the providing of 100,000 "on-site" jobs, had been realized two months before the termination of the Programme. The estimate of the number of jobs filled was made by more than 1,800 municipalities where winter works projects are under way. It is further estimated that the Programme will provide 4,500,000 man-days of work this winter. The projects are widely distributed throughout the ten provinces, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and Indian reservations.

In addition to the jobs provided directly on projects approved under the Programme, at least an equal number of jobs are provided indirectly in the industries that manufacture, sell, and transport the materials used on these jobs. It is thus estimated that some 200,000 jobs have been provided by the Programme to date.

At the equivalent point of last year's Programme the number of "on-site" jobs had not yet reached 50,000, the Minister said.

## NEW PROGRAMME MORE INCLUSIVE

This year, the Programme started on October 15, 1960, six weeks earlier than a year before, and had been broadened to cover new classes of projects, including, for the first time, the construction and repair of municipal buildings, as well as other projects such as street lighting, water and sewage treatment plants and pumping stations. The success of this year's Programme could be attributed to these factors, the Minister said, and also to the efforts made by provincial and municipal governments to use the plan to the best effect in stimulating employment in their communities in the winter months.

At the beginning of March, 5,800 municipal projects had been approved by provincial gov-

ernments and accepted by the Federal Government. The estimated total cost of these projects was more than a quarter of a billion dollars. Total direct payroll costs would amount to an estimated \$80 million, of which over \$60 million would be spent during the six and a half months of the Programme. The federal winter incentive payments will amount to approximately half of the latter figure.

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## EXERCISE "TOCSIN 1961"

Prime Minister Diefenbaker recently announced the second in a series of annual exercises to test and practice emergency measures. The exercise, to be known as "Tocsin 1961" will be held early in May. It will be organized by the Emergency Measures Organization.

The aim of this series of exercises is to practise those emergency measures necessary for national survival and the continuity of all levels of government; to test those measures for which preparations have been made and to direct attention to whatever gaps in planning and preparation still exist.

In the first Exercise "Tocsin" last May emphasis was placed on practising the manning of emergency-government facilities, use of emergency communications and the national survival attack-warning system, not including sirens. This year the emphasis will be on problems of government organization and operation in emergency facilities as well as the warning system including sirens and emergency broadcasting.

The exercise also will include work on some problems of government to be solved following an attack.

The exercise will be based on an assumed nuclear attack on Canada by a force consisting mainly of manned aircraft, as did last year's exercise. In the last exercise each of the ten provincial governments, over three hundred municipalities, the Army and the Federal Government participated.

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## JANUARY IMPORTS

With increases from the preceding year from leading trading areas, the total value of imports in January this year reached an estimated \$433 million, up 8.4 per cent from last year's revised total of \$399,500,000 and down from the peak January total of \$451,600,000 set in 1957, according to advance figures that will be contained in the January issue of "Imports for Consumption" (Dominion Bureau of Statistics).

The value of January imports from the United States rose 5.6 per cent to an estimated \$299,100,000 from \$283,200,000 in January last year, and the total from the United Kingdom advanced 16.6 per cent to \$47,700,000 from \$40,900,000. The months, imports from other