

OPERATION NORS '57'

The frigid reaches of the Arctic this year were the setting for the biggest civilian supply job on record in the Far North, the Department of Transport's "Operation Nors '57".

It was a large scale operation into difficult territory, comprising the transport of some 8,000 tons of supplies and involving five ships. Its main objective was the supply of the Joint Canadian-United States Weather Station at Resolute on the south shore of Cornwallis Island, 2,800 miles by sea from Quebec so far north that its nearest centre of civilization, Churchill, Man., is more than 1,000 miles to the south.

Taking part in "Nors '57" were the Department of Transport icebreakers, "d'Iberville" and "N.B. McLean", its northern supply ship "C.D. Howe" and two chartered vessels, the freighter "Kingsbridge" and the tanker "Sea Transporter".

Important and difficult part of "Nors '57" was the supply of the Joint Weather Station at Eureka, 400 miles north of Resolute. This part of the project, involving nearly 900 miles of journeying through ice fields that were at times almost impassible, was carried out by the 5,678-ton "d'Iberville".

ARCTIC SURVEYS

In addition, there were hydrographic and aerial surveys to be made, the latter by three helicopter crews attached to the "d'Iberville" and "C.D. Howe" whenever these could be carried out without delaying the primary supply task.

The main assignment of the five-ship convoy was the heaviest undertaken by the Department of Transport in the Far North. This year's total shipment comprised about 1,500 tons more

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THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: Total employment at mid-October was estimated to be 5,797,000, which is 123,000, or 2.2 per cent more than a year earlier. The labour force, estimated to be 6,005,000 in mid-October, was 233,000, or 4 per cent higher than a year earlier, a reflection of the substantial volume of immigration in the past year. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work was estimated to be 208,000 at mid-October.

The sustained demand for labour this fall, despite a seasonal decline in farm employment, is attributable in large part to the construction, trade, finance, and service industries, in which employment has risen steadily throughout the year. There was little or no change in manufacturing employment as a whole during October, and employment continued relatively weak in both lumbering and pulpcutting.

than any previous year's consignment.

Commodore of the convoy to Resolute was Capt. C.A. Caron, master of the "d'Iberville"; Capt. P.M. Fournier, master of the "C.D. Howe" was second in command. Fortunately, weather conditions were excellent and there were none of the costly delays that sometimes plague Arctic operations during the brief three-week period when the sea lanes are open to shipping. Favourable winds kept the ice offshore at Resolute, a vital factor in view of the total lack of landing or docking facilities there.

FIFTY-DAY TASK

"Operation Nors '57" took 50 days to complete, the Resolute unloading job being carried out in only eight days. With the weather aiding them, the ships' crews were able to continue the unloading on a 'round-the-clock' basis.

The ships had to bring all shore-to-shore transport equipment with them, from fork lifts to cranes, cranemobiles and trailers. Their cargoes included everything from snow-clearing machinery to prefabricated buildings, some of the items so big and cumbersome they called for real skill and ingenuity in getting them from ship to shore.

Vast quantities of oil and gasoline were landed, partly in drums, partly pumped ashore via big hose lines strung along on floats made of empty drums.

Finally the ships were emptied and materials such as empty oil drums and equipment being sent back south for overhauling, were taken aboard. Then, their mission accomplished, they headed out of Resolute, the "d'Iberville" to proceed to Eureka and then to Quebec to load a further consignment for Hudson Bay, the others southward to new duties.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: Production of maple products (expressed as syrup) in 1957 was estimated at 3,134,000 gallons, up 17 per cent from 1956's total of 2,677,000 gallons and 19 per cent from the five-year (1950-54) average of 2,626,000 gallons. Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Output of maple syrup also rose 17 per cent to an estimated 3,068,000 gallons from last year's 2,618,000 and 25 per cent from the five-year average of 2,464,000. Maple sugar production climbed to 661,000 pounds from 586,000 a year ago, but was sharply below the five-year average of 1,627,000 pounds.

All producing provinces made more maple syrup and maple sugar this year than last. Maple syrup totals were Nova Scotia, 6,000 gallons (3,000 in 1956); New Brunswick, 19,000 (10,000); Quebec, 2,705,000 (2,335,000); and Ontario, 338,000 (270,000). Maple sugar: Nova Scotia, 16,000 pounds (8,000); New Brunswick, 96,000 (37,000); Quebec, 536,000 (535,000); and Ontario, 13,000 (6,000).