

understanding between regions and cultures."

The Government intends to continue this programme on a permanent basis, together with two other major programmes administered by the Secretary of State Department: the Young Voyageur Programme, a federal-provincial project which will provide exchange opportunities to 3,360 high-school students and 280 adult leaders, mostly teachers; and the International Travel and Exchange Programme, through which the Government seeks to encourage travel and exchange opportunities to help Canadians understand better their role in international society.

INDIAN ART

A Cree Indian artist, Jackson Beardy, recently completed a set of paintings depicting stories and legends of the Cree and Sauteaux tribes of north-western Manitoba.

On a cultural contract from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Beardy travelled for a year among the remote, isolated reserves recording his stories on tape.

Mr. Beardy, now in his mid-twenties, was born on the Island Lake Reserve in northwestern Manitoba. He received his early education in a residential school at Portage la Prairie before moving to Winnipeg. Most of his family still live at Island Lake, where his father is a fisherman and a trapper.

His painting career started when he was quite young. He has always had a keen interest in preserving the culture of his people. A one-year course in industrial art at the Technical Vocational School in Winnipeg led him to a job as a commercial artist. However, his nomadic habits and the desire to be independent led him to return to his own style of traditional painting. Most of his paintings portray Indian life, their legends, history, laws of nature, and religious beliefs.

The collection of stories and paintings will shortly be published in the form of a book.

TROOPS TRAIN IN NORWAY

A Canadian battalion group consisting of the 1st Battalion, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and support units, are taking part in the large-scale NATO field-training exercise, called "Polar Express", in northern Norway from June 3 to 22.

Support units completing the battalion group will be elements of the 4th Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, and the Royal Canadian Engineers, as well as a logistic support element from Canadian Forces Base in Calgary.

Exercise "Polar Express" will be held in the Bardufoss area of Troms, Norway, about 200 miles

north of the Arctic Circle. Manoeuvres will be conducted with Norwegian, British, Italian, American, Belgian and Netherlands land and air forces.

This will be the second time a Canadian battalion group has participated in ACE Mobile Force Exercises. The Black Watch battalion group took part in exercise "Winter Express" in Norway in March 1966.

LABOUR FORCE

April employment, at 7,276,000, was 156,000 higher than in March, an above average increase. The number of unemployed - 436,000 - was 52,000 lower than the figure shown a month earlier. The labour force increased by 104,000, to 7,712,000, a larger increase than usual.

The April labour force was 222,000 or 3.0 per cent above that of a year ago. Employment increased by 151,000, or 2.1 per cent, from that of April 1967; unemployment was up by 71,000.

EMPLOYMENT

Farm employment rose by 71,000 during March and April, a more than seasonal increase. The increase in non-farm employment (85,000) was also above average for the period. In non-farm industries, employment gains were widespread; 32,000 in manufacturing, 22,000 in construction, 15,000 in transportation, communication and other utilities, and 11,000 in trade.

Compared to last year's figures, non-farm employment in April 1968 was 122,000 higher and farm employment was up by 29,000. The largest increases in non-farm employment took place in community, business and personal services (57,000) and trade (55,000). Gains also occurred in transportation, communication and other utilities (22,000), finance, insurance and real estate (16,000) and public administration (11,000). Employment was lower than that of a year earlier in manufacturing (26,000) and in construction (25,000).

In all regions except Quebec, employment levels were higher than last year's levels. Employment in Quebec was virtually the same as a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed decreased by 52,000 during March and April. The unemployment estimate of 436,000 was higher by 71,000 compared to that of April 1967.

Of the total unemployed in April, 120,000, or 28 per cent, were unemployed for less than one month. Of the remainder, 140,000 were unemployed for one to three months and 176,000 for four months or more.

Unemployment in April 1968 represented 5.7 per cent of the labour force. This compares to an unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent in April 1967, and 4.1 per cent in April 1966. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in April 1958 was 4.6 per cent.