

## TRADE SCHOOLS EXPANSION PLAN

In addition to the "streaming" of curricula into academic, general, business and commercial, science and technology branches, the provinces of Canada have recently implemented many plans for a greatly expanded programme of vocational-technical education. Details of some of these plans were given in a recent issue of the *Canadian Education Association News Letter*, January 1965.

The report, presented to the National Technical and Vocational Training Advisory Council in May 1964, indicated that about 563 projects had been approved under the Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act. The capacity of these institutions was then estimated at more than 260,000 places; 214 new technical and vocational schools, 78 new trade schools, four new institutes of technology, 10 combined trade schools and technical institutes and 11 extensions to institutes of technology had been constructed.

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## CANADA'S COPPER PRODUCTION

With all mines producing at or near capacity for the year, Canada's production of copper set a record during 1964 of 494,017 tons valued at \$328,233,604, 41,458 tons and \$43,829,914 more than in 1963.

The output of refined copper reversed the trend of the previous two years and, at 408,505 tons, was 29,594 tons higher than in 1963. Domestic consumption of refined copper (producers' domestic shipments) continued to increase and a 19 percent rise over the 1963 figure brought consumption in 1964 to 202,101 tons.

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## HIGH DEMAND FOR STUDENT LOANS

The Prime Minister announced recently that steps have been taken to meet an unexpectedly large demand for loans under the Canada Student Loans Plan. He said the action had been taken as soon as it had become apparent that the demand in some provinces for student loans was exceeding expectations.

The procedures and criteria for loans, as worked out and agreed on among the federal and provincial governments and announced by the Minister of Finance in the House of Commons on June 11, are now being applied. These criteria include standards relating to the financial need of the individual student. It is now evident that more students are qualifying for loans than can be accommodated within the current allocations of some provinces for this academic year.

The provincial governments have been notified that the Federal Government will recommend to Parliament that provincial allocations be increased to such a degree that no student who can meet the agreed standards of eligibility need be denied a loan because of the size of the provincial allocation.

The immediate situation can be met under regulations issued under Section 13 (o) of the Canada Student Loans Act, which provides that, if provinces issue certificates of loan eligibility to students in

an amount exceeding provincial allocations, the excess will be charged to provincial allocations for the succeeding year. The Government will ask Parliament to take action as soon as possible, through an appropriate amendment to the Act that will absorb any excess in certificates issued in the current year and make a charge to the succeeding year's allocation unnecessary.

## LOANS TO CONTINUE

The Prime Minister said that there was, therefore, no reason why provinces should not continue to issue certificates of loan eligibility to all qualifying students in need of loans in the current year.

The Canada Student Loans Plan went into operation in September 1964. It makes possible government-guaranteed bank loans to students who need financial assistance to continue their studies above the secondary-school level in universities and technical and vocational institutions. The loans may be authorized up to a maximum of \$1,000 a year. Interest is paid by the Federal Government while the student continues full-time studies, and for six months after leaving his or her educational institution.

In its first year of operation ending last June 30, loans totalling an estimated \$26,400,000 were made to approximately 42,500 students.

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## GAS TURBINES FOR RCN

Approval has been given to install gas-turbine propulsion systems in four helicopter-carrying destroyers that are to be built for the Royal Canadian Navy in 1967-71 as part of the five-year armed forces re-equipment programme announced last December.

Original plans called for the four ships to be fitted with steam-power plants similar to those in the present destroyer escorts. However, studies conducted by the RCN and Canadian industry have firmly established both the desirability and feasibility of equipping the helicopter-carriers with gas-turbine engines.

In the studies particular note was taken of the rapid advances made in recent years in the reliability, power output and other characteristics of marine gas-turbines, and of their potential for further improvement. Conventional steam-plant development, on the other hand, is considered to have reached its optimum, with improved performance attainable only with a disproportionate increase in complexity and cost.

## PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES

Advantages of the gas-turbine system over the conventional steam plant include an increase in top speed, ability to operate at sea longer without refuelling, instant starting, faster response time, repair by exchange, greatly improved working conditions and smaller operating crews.

The decision to employ gas-turbine power-plants in destroyers carrying helicopters is regarded as one of the most important steps in the history and evolution of naval construction in Canada, which will be one of the first countries to construct warships of destroyer size with all-gas turbine plants.