

NORTHERN HOUSING CONTRACT

A \$191,765 contract for the supply of 13 prefabricated houses has been awarded to Arctic Units Limited of Toronto, Northern Affairs Minister Walter Dinsdale has announced.

The two-bedroom houses will be shipped to nine settlements in the Northwest Territories and northern Quebec, to be erected this summer and autumn as homes for teachers, northern service officers and social workers of the Northern Affairs Department.

The houses are a new design for northern housing developed by the Engineering Division of the Northern Administration Branch. They will be supplied with heating ducts and electrical conduits built into the panels. Sites for the houses are Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Eskimo Point and Igloodik in the Northwest Territories and Povungnituk, Fort Chimo and Great Whale River in northern Quebec.

Because most of the cost of the houses is labour, the contract is part of the Federal Government's winter works programme and will provide employment in many parts of Canada. Local labour will be employed to erect the houses at the settlements.

A trial unit of the northern housing unit will be built at Toronto by Arctic Units Limited to test its effectiveness and ease of assembly.

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CANADA'S ARTS ON TOUR

Many Canadian organizations in the arts now offer longer contracts and greater opportunities to their artists by going on tour. The season of the National Ballet now covers about nine months and most of the continent from Texas to Edmonton. During the 1960-61 season this group will visit 19 Canadian and 38 American cities. Canada's other ballet troupes also planned extensive tours for the current season. The Royal Winnipeg, a stranger to Eastern Canada for several years, appeared in 31 centres in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes during October and November. Early in the new year it plans to visit seven American cities in the mid-Western states. After considerable success at two successive dance festivals at Jacob's Pillow, U.S.A., Les Grands Ballets Canadiens was invited to appear under the sponsorship of Community Concerts Incorporated and during October and November danced in some 20 American cities.

Another Canadian musical organization that has placed itself on a more permanent basis by extensive touring is the Canadian Opera Company. During the 1960-61 season the Canadian Opera company presented a three-week season in Toronto followed by a tour of 40 cities in the West, where they presented chamber versions of "The Merry Wives of Windsor".

ORCHESTRAS MORE MOBILE

Transportation costs have hitherto made large-scale tours by symphony orchestras almost prohibitively expensive. Exceptions have been the journeys of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to the Okanagan and the coastal areas of British Columbia, the tour of the Halifax Symphony to Newfoundland and the trip of the Edmonton Symphony to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Encouraged partly by Canada Council grants, more symphony orchestras are giving out-of-town performances during the 1960-61 season. The newly reorganized Quebec Symphony is giving a series of concerts which will take in seven centres outside of the capital in the province. The Victoria Symphony will continue a practice of former years in presenting a series of concerts at Duncan and Sydney on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The Vancouver Orchestra will visit 10 centres in the Kootenay region and the Toronto Symphony will perform seven concerts in Ontario, Michigan and New York.

Several chamber groups also continue to bring good music to the less accessible regions of Canada. Assisted by a large grant from the Canada Council, the Hart House orchestra of Toronto recently completed a tour to 31 western centres, some of them as isolated as Yellowknife and Uranium City. At its most recent meeting the Council awarded a grant to the Baroque Trio of Montreal to enable it to give some 47 concerts during the 1960-61 season in localities from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia. A grant was also voted to the Regina College Conservatory of Music to permit members of its staff to tour to 10 centres in Saskatchewan.

The group that probably reaches the largest number of people, however, is Les Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, which has about 50,000 members in more than 60 cities from Halifax to Nelson. During 1960-61, the JMC concert series will feature 11 young artists, a chamber orchestra and two operas by the Canadian composer, Maurice Blackburn. The Canada Council last summer awarded the organization a grant of \$26,000 for its operations.

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NEW ESKIMO COLOUR-PRINT DISPLAY

A new collection of colour prints by the 26 artists of the Eskimo Craft Centre at Cape Dorset on the southwest coast of Baffin Island will be introduced to Southern Canada by a one-day display in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, on February 28. Next day, exhibitions of similar prints will open simultaneously in Vancouver, Boston and New York.

The first small experimental group of Eskimo stone-cuts and seal-skin pictures was displayed at the Stratford Festival in 1959. Their reception surpassed even the best hopes of those who had worked with the Eskimos to bring the prints out of Cape Dorset. It sur-