

national honour has come to this group of Canadians.

"Beyond the work you will see this evening there have been other achievements: commissions from leading publications, and for works to be exhibited permanently abroad. There is another milestone, too. The Cape Dorset Eskimo Co-operative has recently employed a Vancouver artist, a graduate of the Ontario College of Art, to serve as its business manager in Cape Dorset. This is an important economic development, for it means that the Eskimos are moving towards economic independence, a step essential to the success of the Government's programme of Northern development now under way. In all this my own Department has had a close and happy association with the Cape Dorset artists. It has arranged for exhibitions of their works, has handled sales to galleries and museums in this country and abroad, and has met countless requests for information on the artists, their community and their work.

CRITICISM ANSWERED

"There has been one note of criticism of this commercial aspect of the Cape Dorset Art. Some persons - and I am happy to say they are very few in number - see the sale of Eskimo art leading to a perversion of the talents of the artists. I feel that the reverse is true, that this artistic achievement is making a large contribution in building up the self-confidence and independence of our Northern Canadians as they mingle more and more with the world of the twentieth century. After all, we must remember that they are moving from Stone Age culture to modern civilization almost in the short space of one generation.

"We make no apology for attempting to ensure that the Cape Dorset artists receive a fair return for their work. In assessing its value we are guided by the decisions of an advisory group, composed of interested and informed citizens in the art world outside my own Department. In this way we feel that the best possible assistance is being given to the Eskimo in the development of his art. The advisory group has made available to us their professional advice and guidance in the pricing, sale and exhibition of Cape Dorset graphics. To these advisors I extend sincere gratitude on behalf of the Department and the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative....

"To those who see danger in the exchange of money between art collector and the Eskimo artists, might I point out that the Cape Dorset artists are people of the land. Their lives are often difficult and fraught with economic insecurity. It is their wish and their desire to remain as people of the North. They are not professional artists. The financial returns from the sale of their art will help to make their lives in the North easier. For example, hunters who are artists are buying better equipment for life as hunters,

which helps to remove much of the physical hardship which they have endured in the past. This they are doing on their own, without dependence on government or other outside help. Indeed, they are paying their way and accepting responsibilities as citizens of Canada in the fullest sense.

"The close association that exists between the Department of Northern Affairs and these artists is a source of real satisfaction to us. I am honoured by the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative to be invited to open the 1960 exhibition of their graphic art tonight...."

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YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER

Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that His Excellency Koca Popovic, Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, accompanied by Mrs. Popovic, will pay an official visit to Ottawa on March 27 and 28. The Foreign Minister, who is leading the Yugoslav Delegation to the resumed session of the United Nations General Assembly, will fly from New York as the guest of the Government of Canada for consultations with the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and other Canadian ministers, on international problems of mutual concern.

On March 27, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Mrs. Green will give a dinner for the visitors, who will, in turn, be hosts the following night at a dinner in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Green at the Yugoslav Embassy.

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CANAL STATISTICS

Navigation through the Sault Ste. Marie locks was officially closed for the year 1960 on December 12, the Welland Ship Canal on December 15 and the St. Lawrence system on November 30, although the last vessel downbound on the St. Lawrence system passed through on December 3. This was no earlier than in the previous year, but total freight cleared through Canadian canals in December dropped sharply (41 per cent) to 489,489 tons from 829,440 in the like 1959 month. Vessel passages decreased to 430 from 583, and the registered net tonnage to 492,247 tons from 873,879.

With a complete stoppage of iron-ore shipments, freight transported through the combined Canada-U.S. Sault Ste. Marie canals in December was down to 860,679 tons from 5,021,154 in December 1959; lockages through the Canadian canal amounted to 21,523 tons against 31,431. Freight cleared through the Welland Ship Canal in the month was down to 408,154 tons from 699,849 a year earlier, and the volume locked through the St. Lawrence system was down to 22,033 tons from 70,754.