

IN SEARCH OF THE MAGNETIC NORTH

Where is the North Magnetic Pole now? Contrary to what many people think, it moves. Since 1950, it has been moving north at the rate of about five miles a year. Many maps show it at the northern end of Prince of Wales Island in the Canadian Arctic archipelago. Actually, this was its position in 1950, when the last check on its location was made.

Another check is to be made this year. It is one of the many investigations of the earth's crust that over 50 geophysicists and technicians from the Dominion Observatory of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys are carrying out by means of geomagnetism, gravity and seismology across Canada.

The two geophysicists who will study the North Magnetic Pole expect to find it at the south end of Bathurst Island. The movement of the Pole is believed to be caused by changes in the liquid core of the earth. The team will travel north to Bathurst aboard two Department of Transport icebreakers, the "d'Iberville" and the "Maclean".

The biggest single project on the programme is the mapping of the earth's magnetic field over 1,250,000 square miles of Canada's Arctic archipelago as far as the North Pole. It will be carried out this fall by moonlight by Dr. Paul E. Serson, using the unique three-component magnetometer developed under his direction at the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa. This survey is part of the current world survey of the earth's magnetic field, which is scheduled for completion by 1965.

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

Canada's gross national product continued to advance in the first quarter of 1962. At a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of \$38.6 billion, it was about 2 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1961. There was some rise in prices and gross national expenditure in constant dollars is estimated to have risen about 1.5 per cent. About half the increase in

the value of the gross national product is statistical rather than economic, in that the estimate of this year's crop assumes a normal harvest in contrast to the poor harvest of last year. This in itself involves an increase of about \$360 million in the value of production. In the non-farm sector, the quarter-to-quarter increase is about 1 per cent.

CONSUMER SPENDING

The major factor contributing to the expansion in economic activity was consumer spending, which recorded one of the largest quarterly gains in recent years. On the other hand, additions to business inventories, which have been an important increment to the demands on current production in the fourth quarter of 1961, ceased to be an expansionary influence. The liquidation of farm inventories in the fourth quarter, a reflection of heavy sales and a poor crop, was sharply reduced in the first, given the crop estimate stated above. Government expenditure on goods and services added an element of support to the rising level of economic activity.

Gross fixed capital formation gave little stimulus to economic expansion; a considerable increase in housing was partly offset by lower outlays for plant and equipment. Moreover, the deficit on current international transactions widened, payments on invisibles continued to advance in excess of receipts, and the surplus on merchandise account, which had emerged in 1961, dwindled in the first quarter of 1962, as exports failed to maintain the rising rate characteristic of 1961 and imports remained level.

DOMINICAN AND GUINEAN ENVOYS

On June 28, Dr. Conté Saidou presented to the Governor-General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guinea to Canada. On June 29, Dr. Alberto Rincon y Jaquez presented his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic.