

CANADA COUNCIL MEDALS

On February 18, three distinguished Canadians (Leonard Brockington, scholar and orator, Claude Champagne, musician and composer, and Arthur Lismer, painter and teacher) were awarded the Canada Council Medal. The Medal was created in 1961 to pay tribute to individuals who had done outstanding work in the arts, humanities or social sciences. The formal presentation of the recent awards took place at the Country Club on the outskirts of Ottawa, in the presence of the Governor General, who made the presentations, and Madame Vanier. Colonel Douglas B. Weldon, Chairman of the Council presided over the ceremony.

In welcoming the recipients and guests, Colonel Weldon said: "We covet for the Canada Council Medal all the high prestige that should be associated with a unique and important national award. To achieve that goal we must select medallists of the highest distinction. This we are satisfied we have done."

Designed to be displayed on desk or table rather than worn, the Canada Council Medal is about four inches in diameter and weighs about 1½ pounds. On one face it bears the Council crest, with the motto *Artes et Ingenia Fovere*. On the reverse side a circular frieze symbolizes the many activities supported by the Council. The first presentation of the Medal was made in February 1962.

INCREASE IN FIRE DEATHS

Fires caused the death of 602 persons in Canada during 1962, an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year, according to figures released recently by the Minister of Public Works.

Total damage from all categories except forest fires amounted to \$122,239,985, according to the Minister's statement, which was based on preliminary estimates prepared by the Dominion Fire Commissioner from data supplied by the provincial fire marshals and fire commissioners. This loss resulted from 83,259 fires, an average of well over 200 a day.

INCREASE IN CHILD FATALITIES

These preliminary fire-loss figures for 1962 are somewhat smaller than those for 1961, which showed a total of 83,706 fires and property damage amounting to \$128,262,047. However, the 1961 totals may well be exceeded by the time final returns for 1962 have been tabulated. The loss of life during 1962 (232 men, 110 women and 260 children) was marked by the increase in the number of child fatalities, 49 more than the number of child deaths for 1961. Total fire fatalities for that year were 556.

In announcing the latest figures, Mr. Fulton pointed out that Canada continues to have one of the highest fire loss records *per capita* of any country in the world for which statistics are available.

The Minister said that experience in other countries as well as in Canada clearly showed that the Canadian record could be improved by better fire-prevention practices. He said that much

remained to be done in the field of fire-prevention education so that Canadians might be made fully aware of the practical measures that could be adopted to reduce this needless loss of life and property.

CJS GETS NEW MEMBER

Dr. Morley G. Whillans, 52, formerly of Winnipeg, Assistant Chief Scientist (Biosciences) and Director of Biosciences Research at Defence Research Board headquarters, has been appointed Defence Research Member of the Canadian Joint Staff in London, England. Dr. Whillans succeeds J.C.W. Scott, 59, a native of Le Havre, France, who will return to Ottawa to carry out special research studies at the Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment.

POPULATION OF CANADA

Canada's estimated population at the beginning of 1963 was 18,767,000, an increase of 333,000, or 1.8 per cent, since January 1, 1962, and of 529,000, or 2.9 per cent, since the June 1, 1961, Census. The largest quarterly increase in 1962 was 92,000, from April 1 to July 1. Other quarterly increases were 74,000 between January 1, 1962, and April, 83,000 between July 1 and October 1 and 84,000 between October 1, 1962, and January 1, 1963.

Among the provinces, Quebec had the greatest increase (108,000), or 2 per cent during 1962. Ontario increased by 103,000, or 1.6 per cent. Alberta was third in numerical increase (38,000), but first in rate of growth at 2.8 per cent, and British Columbia had an increase of 37,000 or 2.2 per cent. Other provincial increases during 1962 were: Manitoba 14,000, or 1.5 per cent; Newfoundland 12,000, or 2.6 per cent; Nova Scotia 9,000, or 1.2 per cent; New Brunswick, 8,000, or 1.3 per cent; Saskatchewan 3,000, or 0.3 per cent; and Prince Edward Island 1,000, or 0.9 per cent.

CANADA'S NORTHERN FORESTERS

In recognition of their increasing responsibility for the forested areas of the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories, forestry staffs in these two areas will now operate as the Yukon Forest Service and the Mackenzie Forest Service, it was announced recently by Mr. Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. "This is one way in which we can also give these men recognition for their good work over the past years," said Mr. Dinsdale. "Although the forestry staffs in the Yukon and Mackenzie are small in number, their work is comparable to their counterparts in the provinces."

EXPANDED DUTIES

Members of the Yukon and Mackenzie Forest Services are responsible for the vital work of protecting this important resource from fire. Duties