

Arctic town of Inuvik, where engineers were confronted by a major problem in the unstable soils of the Mackenzie Delta, the site selected for Frobisher Bay provides a natural rock base.

Building on solid rock can be substantially cheaper than building on the permafrost that underlies the tundra. The use of relatively high pre-cast concrete structures on a rock base, coupled with the shortest practical sewer and water lines, not only lowers initial costs but substantially reduces operating and maintenance costs and gives virtual freedom from fire hazard. Fire is a continuing threat in all types of Arctic construction since water is almost always in short supply.

NOVEL DESIGN

The new units will be linked by covered passages, pipes will be carried by a system of utilidors, and buildings heated from a central plant. This design is something of a departure from conventional construction practices followed by government agencies in the North and offers a pattern that some may wish to follow.

When communities are spread over bigger areas (in some locations this is unavoidable), a result can be extremely high costs for the installation and maintenance of water, sewer, heating and other services. Relatively tall buildings cut down the ground area required by a town and create a corresponding reduction in service costs. Capital costs and maintenance also tend to be lower.

Preliminary work on the site will start this autumn. Later construction will go on throughout the year with interior work proceeding when weather is too bad for outdoor operations.

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FILM ON MINING CAREERS

Production of a 30-minute color film as part of a nation-wide programme to interest senior high-school students in careers in the mineral industry and sciences is being sponsored by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and nine provincial mining departments. Mr. Comtois, the Minister of Mines and Technical Survey, said the Federal Government would underwrite 40 per cent of the production cost.

Tentatively entitled, "The Nation Builders", the 16mm film will have both English and French dialogue and narration and will stress not only the wide scope of opportunity for the student seeking an interesting and rewarding career, but also the importance of the mining industry and mineral sciences to Canada.

Agreement on production details of the film was reached at the Provincial Mines Ministers Conference at Quebec last year. The film, which is expected to be completed and ready for release before the end of the year, includes sequences in mines located over a large part of Canada, from the United States border to the Yukon Territory and from Newfoundland to the Pacific Ocean.

It follows the career of a student and his classmates through each of the four years of university courses in geology and geophysics, mining, electrical and mechanical engineering, and metallurgy. Students are shown at summer work at various mining sites

engaged in a variety of jobs designed to provide them with the experience and training required for more responsible work after graduation from university.

Underground and surface filming at mining operations will be carried out during the next few months and most of the university sequences will be shot in September.

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CANADA-SOVIET TRADE TALKS

On July 31, Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced the conclusion of consultations between the U.S.S.R. and Canadian trade officials held in accordance with the exchange of letters that accompanied the Protocol signed in Moscow on April 18, 1960, renewing the Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement of 1956. These letters call for annual examination of trade results achieved. The Soviet delegation was headed by V.A. Kamensky, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Trade, and included A.I. Ivanov and M.A. Davidov of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the U.S.S.R. and V.N. Platonov, Commercial Counsellor of the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Ottawa.

The representatives of the two countries noted that there had been an increase in trade in both directions over the past year, and it was recognized that there were possibilities for further expansion on a mutually advantageous basis. The U.S.S.R. delegation announced the Soviet intention of taking part in the Montreal International Trade Fair with a wide range of Soviet goods. The Canadian delegation welcomed this initiative to expand trade between the countries.

This first annual consultation permitted representatives to examine various ways in which exports of the two countries might be developed under the terms of the current trade agreement. It was agreed that the discussions had been useful and had contributed to a better understanding of commercial relations between Canada and the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Hees received the Soviet delegation briefly before their departure from Ottawa on a short tour of industrial centres in southwestern Ontario. They were accompanied by W. Van Vliet, Canadian Commercial Counsellor in Moscow.

The three visiting members of the delegation are returning to Moscow tomorrow.

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NOVEL ARTISTIC USE OF GLASS

An enamel-on-glass screen in which a common industrial process has been used in an unusual way for artistic expression has been installed at Halifax International Airport, the Department of Transport announced recently. The work of Canadian sculptor Alfred B. Cox, ARCA, the screen is made of 3/8-inch plate glass on which colorful enamels have been fused at very high temperatures. Called "Wings and Fins" and showing fish and sea birds, the screen divides the mezzanine of the Department's new terminal building into more intimate waiting areas.

The screen is 36 feet long and 92 inches high. Since it depends for effect on light passing through it, it has been placed between large windows facing east and west. As sunlight moves across it, it changes