

NAVY MANS ARCTIC STATION: It was announced on October 21 that the Royal Canadian Navy had taken over from the United States Air Force the operation of the Arctic radio station on Padloping Island. Padloping Island is on the east coast of Baffin Island, about 40 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It is situated at Latitude 67 degrees 06 minutes north and Longitude 62 degrees 22 minutes west.

The function of the station is to make meteorological observations and provide radio navigational aids to aircraft flying the northern route between North America and Europe, as well as those operating in Canada's Far North.

The station was established by the U.S. Air Force, with the approval of the Canadian Government, during the Second World War. Known by the code name of Crystal 111, its principal purpose was to furnish weather information and radio aids to aircraft being ferried across the Atlantic to Europe.

The USAF continued to operate the station in the post-war period but has now turned it over to the RCN in accordance with an agreement between the governments of the two countries whereby Canada assumes responsibility for the station. The RCN will operate the station pending its manning by personnel of the Department of Transport.

The Padloping Island station is self-sufficient. For most of the year -- during the freeze-up period -- it is completely isolated and supplies and mail have to be dropped from the air. The bulk of the station's stores are delivered by ships which make an annual summer expedition to re-supply far northern stations.

* * * *

COST-OF-LIVING: Cost-of-living indexes for seven of the nine regional centres fell between August 1 and September 1, while two advanced; changes in food prices were mainly responsible. Fresh vegetables and lamb were substantially lower in all centres. Advances were general for eggs, lard and coffee, while beef and pork changes were mixed. Broad prices were reported higher in St. John's.

Rents were unchanged in five cities and higher in the remaining four. Fuel and light indexes were firmer in St. John's and Winnipeg, reflecting advances in coal prices, while higher coke prices supported an advance in the Montreal series. In the clothing group, higher prices for men's outerwear and footwear and lower prices for nylon hosiery and rayon slips were the principal changes recorded. Clothing indexes moved up narrowly in five cities and remained unchanged in four. Changes in home-furnishings and services were mixed and affected a wide range of items. As a result indexes were lower in four cities, higher in three and unchanged in the remaining two. The miscellaneous items series advanced in seven cities, Saint John and Toronto showing no overall change. Magazine subscription

rates increased in all nine centres, while gasoline prices were higher in Montreal and lower in Toronto.

Beginning November, regional indexes will be calculated on the base 1949 = 100, instead of the present base 1939 = 100.

* * * *

AIRLINES' BUSIEST YEAR: Canada's airlines carried more passengers, goods and mail in 1952 than in any other year in their history, but high operating costs sliced their operating income almost in half to \$3,763,948 from the all-time high of \$6,990,586 in 1951, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported. The smaller 1952 surplus, however, was in sharp contrast to deficits in the eight years previous to 1951.

Operating revenues increased to \$90,519,295 last year from \$73,051,532 in 1951, while operating expenses rose to \$86,755,347 from \$66,060,946. The average number of employees increased to 9,746 from 8,107 and the total payroll advanced to \$36,625,014 from \$27,399,363.

Revenue miles flown by Canadian airlines totalled 58,775,340 last year, a gain of 11.8 per cent from 52,578,934 miles in the preceding year, but the number of hours flown decreased to 491,722 from 582,707 due to the employment of faster aircraft of heavier capacity. The number of revenue passengers transported was up 21.6 per cent to 2,298,194 from 1,889,950, while the number of revenue passenger miles flown in unit toll transportation rose 16.8 per cent to 805,642,141 from 689,819,451.

The volume of revenue freight carried more than doubled last year to 135,055,106 pounds from 59,199,354 in 1951, due in large extent to the greatly accelerated activity in the northern regions of the country. Another new record was established for the volume of air mail which reached 18,328,310 pounds, exceeding the 1951 record of 16,824,652 pounds by 8.9 per cent. Mail ton miles increased 7.9 per cent to 5,725,178 from 5,306,076 during the year.

* * * *

NEW COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR TO PARIS: Bertram C. Butler, of Hamilton and Ottawa, has been appointed Commercial Counsellor for Canada in Paris, and will leave to take up his new assignment towards the end of this year. Mr. Butler is at present Consul of Canada and Trade Commissioner in Detroit, to which he was posted in 1951 after a period of six years in Ottawa as Director of the Information Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce.

* * * *

At the time of the 1951 Census there were 2,028,450 Canadian homes with a telephone, or 59.5% of all the occupied dwellings. Ten years earlier, 1,037,298 homes or slightly more than 40% had telephone service.