

EMERGENCY WELFARE MEETING

Officials responsible for preparing Canada's Emergency Welfare Services programmes met at the Canadian Civil Defence College, Amprior, from October 10 to 12. The meeting brought together EWS directors and other officials from provincial departments of welfare and the federal Department of National Health and Welfare. A representative attended from the United States.

Delegates discussed common problems, reviewed progress and co-ordinated some of their future planning. Emergency Welfare Services include emergency feeding, clothing and housing, arrangements for reunion of separated families and other services which would be necessary in a wartime or peacetime disaster.

AUGUST FOREST FIRES

A total of 1,222 forest fires burned or destroyed an estimated 27,000 acres of Canada's forests during August, according to statistics released by the federal Department of Forestry.

An area estimated at 449,000 acres has been burned over by 5,563 fires from the beginning of the 1962 forest-fire season to the end of August. This is a sharp reduction from the corresponding period in 1961, when 8,712 fires covering 5,420,000 acres were recorded.

During the years 1952-61, the seasonal average up to the end of August was 5,183 fires, with an area burned of 1,593,000 acres.

The statistics issued by the federal Department of Forestry are based on reports received from the provinces.

ARMY SURVEY CONTINUES

The survey and mapping of Canada by the Canadian Army, which has been under way since 1903, is one step nearer completion since this summer's 2,500-mile survey traverse in the proximity of the North Magnetic Pole.

During the three-month "summer season" in the Arctic archipelago, a 17-man party from the Army Survey Establishment in Ottawa added enough survey data to complete another 18 map sheets on a scale of 1/250,000 (approximately one inch to four miles) to the growing complex of maps and data that should result in an up-to-date topographical picture of the entire country by 1967.

The 1962 survey task on Melville, Prince Patrick, Borden and Mackenzie Islands was completed three weeks ahead of schedule. The party chief, Captain J.F. Reichert of the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE), credited good weather for the successful summer operations. "The use of helicopters and tellurometers, electronic distance-measuring devices, has also made field-survey work in the North an easier task," he said. "Such vast areas could never be surveyed using conventional distance-measuring methods or less adequate transportation," Capt. Reichert added.

The crew comprised seven RCE soldier-surveyors, two cooks from the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) and eight civilian helicopter pilots, who provided all the transportation requirements.

Next summer's field-survey programme will include Somerset, Prince of Wales and King William Islands, as well as the Boothia Peninsula.

RECENT DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Three senior Canadian diplomatic appointments have recently been announced.

Mr. Bruce Williams, until July Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana and Ambassador to the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Guinea and Togo, has been named Canadian Ambassador to Turkey. Mr. Donald MacAlister Cornett, Head of the Consular Division of the Department of External Affairs, will replace Mr. Williams in Accra. Mr. G.B. Cox of the Department of External Affairs is to replace Mr. G.F. Hooton in Saigon as Canadian Commissioner to the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam.

CANADA'S NORTHERN FISHING

Anglers and fly fishermen took a record catch of Arctic grayling and lake trout this summer from lakes in Canada's Northwest Territories. Sport-fishing camps just 100 miles from the Arctic Ocean were booked solid through July, August and early September. "This is an amazing development", said Northern Affairs Minister Walter Dinsdale. "Fighting game fish and spectacular country may soon boost the tourist industry in the Northwest Territories into a bracket close to Yellowknife gold and Flat River tungsten. Tourist business in the North doubled this year and we expect that it will do so again next year".

Some 2000 visitors with fishing gear and cameras travelled north during the short summer. About half drove into Yellowknife and the Great Slave Lake area by car over the new Yellowknife highway. The others flew to Great Bear Lake on the Arctic circle and Coppermine on the Arctic Ocean.

Sportsmen who like adventure with their sport found it at Great Bear Lake when in early July, a north wind piled 1500 feet of ice on the shore round a fishing lodge. Elsewhere, anglers enjoyed the novelty of fishing by the "midnight sun" and watching through the clear, ice-cold water the lunge of striking fish. Beyond the tree-line, lakes are free of sunken logs and stumps and no sticks or weeds snag the line.

The Eskimo Co-operative at Coppermine first experienced the tourist trade when it offered ocean fishing for Arctic char and a colourful variety of fine crafts, including fur-trimmed boots, gloves and parkas.

In the Eastern Arctic, tourist groups on chartered flights visited settlements on Baffin Island and along the coast of Hudson Bay.

A coming attraction for future tourists will be seal-hunting and dog-team travel out of settlements on the west coast of Hudson Bay.