

## NATIONAL ARDA CONFERENCE

A federal-provincial conference on ARDA, the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, was held in Montreal on November 26 and 27 to negotiate the terms of an agreement that would govern the direction of the \$175-million programme from April 1965 to April 1970. The ministers responsible for ARDA and their supporting staffs totalled about 75.

The new ARDA agreement is intended to replace the first general agreement, which came into effect in the autumn of 1962. Like its predecessors, the new agreement includes provision for programmes of alternate land use, soil and water conservation and rural development, all aimed at improving income levels in rural areas and improving resource development and use. It differs from the previous agreement mainly in that it makes more specific provision for the kinds of project that can be undertaken. Some sections are also intended to aim federal-provincial ARDA programmes more directly toward the many areas and regions of Canada where serious problems exist of rural unemployment, under-employment, low income and poor opportunity.

### SOURCES OF FUNDS

During the five years of the new agreement, a maximum of \$25 million will be available annually from the Federal Government to carry out diverse projects of rural improvement. The provinces may provide approximately the same amount as their share of the joint federal-provincial programme. The initiative for introducing, carrying out and administering all ARDA projects rests with the provinces.

A further \$50-million fund will be established to finance major programmes where need appears greatest. The fund will be of special use in regions where low income is particularly serious, and where budgets do not permit the large "inputs" needed for major rural rehabilitation and development programmes.

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## SEAWAY TRAFFIC

Cargo traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway for 1964 will nearly double the 20,000,000-ton total for 1959, the year the Montreal-Lake Ontario section opened, Seaway traffic figures for November reveal.

As ships move to clear the system for winter, the April-through-November cargo tonnage amounts to 38,500,000 or 29 percent greater than for the same period last year. A few days of cargo movement, while closing operations continue, will add to the present total.

Traffic for November 1964 (4,800,000 tons) exceeded that for November 1963 by 650,000 tons or 15 per cent.

### WELLAND TRAFFIC

It appears certain that cargo tonnage transiting the Welland Canal between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie will break through the 50,000,000-ton mark. This month it was 5,875,000 tons, greater by 760,000 tons, or 14 per cent, than last November. Welland tonnage

this season to the end of November totals 49,600,000 tons, 26 percent greater than for the comparable period in 1963. The official closing of this part of the Seaway system is not until December 15.

The 1964 figures to date show that more than 6,600 vessels have transited the Montreal-Lake Ontario stretch of the Seaway, an increase of nearly 600. Welland Canal transits exceed 8,000, a movement of 800 more ships so far this season than in 1963.

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## EMERGENCY HEALTH-SUPPLY MEET

Emergency health-supplies officers from all provinces met from December 1 to 3 to plan a uniform emergency health-supply service for Canada. The conference, which took place at the Canadian Civil Defence College, Arnprior, Ontario, brought together the federal, provincial and regional representatives responsible for planning a uniform emergency health-supply service. This system, said the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Miss Judy LaMarsh, aimed at meeting the needs of Canadians "in case of national emergency or natural disaster".

In addition to the provincial officers, the conference was attended by regional emergency health-supplies officers, representatives of the Department of National Defence and other federal departments. It was conducted by the Emergency Health Services Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

### TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

During the three-day conference, there were progress reports on federal and provincial emergency health-supplies programmes, as well as discussion of the warehousing and distribution of supplies. Other topics of discussion were the role of the pharmacist, the training of pharmacists for emergencies, and the transportation of supplies during an emergency.

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## CANADIAN ICY ORGAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced the awarding of a grant of \$25,000 to International Co-operation Year (Canada), a non-governmental organization, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.R. Kidd, set up to organize and co-ordinate the activities of all non-governmental organizations in Canada during 1965, the International Co-operation Year.

International Co-operation Year (Canada) has provided leadership in Canada in developing a comprehensive national non-governmental plan and programme for ICY, as well as showing the way to the formation of national committees in other countries. The Government of Canada, by means of its \$25,000 grant, wishes to recognize the important task undertaken by International Co-operation Year (Canada) and the able way in which it has been carrying out its functions as a national co-ordinating body for non-governmental activities.