

## ESKIMOS TO RUN ARCTIC PLANTS

Ten young Eskimos returned home this summer qualified to operate the power plants that provide heat and light to schools in their Arctic communities.

They had just finished a 3-month course at the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' School at Barriefield, Ontario, and were the third group to have been trained there since 1959. "These short courses," said Northern Affairs Minister Walter Dinsdale, "are part of a long-term programme designed to prepare the Eskimos to play an increasingly important role in the development in Canada's north now under way".

The Army's help enabled Northern Affairs to solve the problem of providing qualified operators for the diesel-electric power plants that were being installed in smaller Arctic communities (the plants average 3½ K.W.). Providing fully skilled mechanics raised problems of cost. It was felt, too, by the Education Division, which was responsible for planning and organizing vocational courses, that local Eskimos with an aptitude for this kind of work would, if given the right training, do the job well.

### THE ENGINEERS STEP IN

But the Sir John Franklin School at Yellowknife, vocational-training centre for the Northwest Territories, did not have the space to set up such a course. The Army did. RCEME facilities included instruction in the use of tools, diesel operation and maintenance, and power-plant operation. Private companies came forward to offer to lend equipment of a size and type similar to that used at Arctic installations. Most plants are in schools, and their operation includes the providing of heat and light for teachers' homes.

The 40 men who have qualified since 1959 are now running, or helping to run, plants at Eskimo Point, Wakeham Bay, Notre-Dame-de Koartac, Fort Chimo, Notre-Dame-d'Ivugivic, Sugluk, Rankin Inlet, Port Harrison, Churchill, and Frobisher Bay. Dave Okpik, one of the first group and now in charge of the power plant at Notre-Dame-de Koartac, has been recommended to become an instructor. Peter Audlalook, a 1962 trainee, is back at Notre-Dame-d'Ivugivic as assistant to Issac Padlogat, who was at Barriefield last year. Tom Orpigak at Wakeham Bay has Simeon Sirbuck, a 1962 trainee, to help him. As the programme stands, it should take care of power-plant operations for the next two or three years.

### ESKIMO INITIATIVE

The course supervisor this year was Carol Baker, a Northern Affairs teacher and the first to be posted north of the Canadian mainland. When Mr. Baker went to Resolute on Cornwallis Island in December 1958 to open the school, he found that his pupils were ahead of him. They had started their own school, sparked by the enterprising teenager Leah, who had rounded up all available small fry, including a few babies in parka hoods, and talked the local Mounted

Police constable into making available one of the rarest commodities in the Arctic, a few square feet of vacant indoor space. (A visitor to Resolute two years after Baker left found that his former pupils could still recall both his names and pronounce them properly.)

Assistant course supervisor William Hendon, a keen shot, formed an after-work rifle club for the Eskimos, held nightly shoots, and awarded a trophy. As part of a programme designed to show the Eskimos as much as possible of Southern Canada in their free time, they were taken on a number of trips, including the St. Lawrence Seaway. When the time came to go home, they had also completed first-aid and St. John's Ambulance courses.

When Eskimos are out of the Arctic on courses, their families aren't forgotten. Letters and tape-recorded messages help bridge a gap that is wider in way of living than in distance. The "Innuits", who live in a huge land where mails are sometimes irregular, are among Canada's most avid tape-recorder fans.

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### SEAWAY FOR THE SHIPS OF THE WORLD

(Continued from P. 2)

"...Queen Elizabeth, at the official opening ceremonies, stated it this way:

"This vast undertaking has been a co-operative effort of Canada and the United States.... The two nations build it together and the two nations will share its benefits.... Ocean-going ships will go up and down this waterway, taking goods to and from American and Canadian ports, and exchanging the products of North America for those from the rest of the world.

"More than all this, it is a magnificent monument to the enduring friendship of our two nations and to their partnership in the development of North America."

"President Eisenhower's words were:

"It is, above all, a magnificent symbol to the entire world of the achievements possible to democratic nations peacefully working together for the common good."

"Inscribed on a huge slab of black granite at the international boundary line of the Cornwall-Barnhart Island powerhouse structure are these words:

"This stone bears witness to the common purpose of two nations, whose frontiers are the frontiers of friendship, whose ways are the ways of freedom, and whose works are the works of peace."

"Every day of the navigation season ships of all nations are being received in and passed through its locks and its canals, located in the most populated and developed regions of Quebec, the rich farm and park lands of Eastern Ontario and the fertile orchards and vineyards of the Welland peninsula. From the ports of the seven seas they bring cargoes to the strategic Seaway lake ports and, returning, take with them cargoes from Canada and the United States...."