

Canadian postal officials say that the bigger containers provide a new quality of service and reduce transportation costs substantially between the mainland and Newfoundland. Similar services might be used, officials say, in other parts of Canada.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced that Mr. George Kinnear Grande, who has been External Affairs member of the Directing Staff of the National Defence College in Kingston since 1966, is to become the new Canadian Ambassador to Norway, with accreditation to Iceland. He will replace Mr. John Peter Sigvaldason.

Mr. Sharp also announced that Mr. Victor Campbell Moore, of the Department of External Affairs Office of Economic Affairs would become High Commissioner to Jamaica, replacing Mr. Harry Jay, who had been appointed External Affairs member of the Directing Staff of the National Defence College in Kingston.

EARLY FASHION AND ARCHITECTURE

Two new books on early Quebec, written for the National Museum of Man, have recently been published in French by the Queen's Printer.

Robert-Lionel Séguin, an expert on the culture of New France, who recently won a Governor-General's prize, writes of fashion in clothes among the early Canadians and examines some of their architecture.

The citizens of New France, Mr. Séguin points out, not only possessed rich and varied clothing but their masculine apparel took up more wardrobe space than that of their ladies. Female garments, however, were of better quality, the author observes.

The book, *Le Costume civil en Nouvelle-France*, says that the farmer of the *Ancien Régime* was "as well dressed as any man and wore such sumptuous apparel as knee breeches and canions (lace frills)". Clothes cost him more than his farm implements or his cows.

ARCHITECTURE

The other book, *La maison en Nouvelle-France*, deals with the country houses of New France which were generally of two distinct types: the group house - living quarters, hayloft, shed and stable all under one roof; and the courtyard house - several separate buildings located round an inner courtyard. Most country houses in New France were of the latter type.

The colony was divided into two main architectural zones; the Quebec area, protected by the King's garrison, and the Montreal area, on the fringe of civilization and at the mercy of Indian raiders during the French-Iroquois war. Houses in the Quebec area were in the Norman style - large, spacious and pleasant. Houses in the Montreal area, built in the Breton style, were really fortress-homes - square, squat buildings with small windows that could be transformed into loopholes.

Mr. Séguin says there are many fine examples of

these homes throughout Québec, many of which are being restored.

The author wrote both books under contract with the folklore division of the National Museum of Man.

NHA INTEREST RATE LOWER

H.W. Hignett, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has announced that the quarterly adjustment of the interest-rate ceiling for merchant-builder, home-owner, and rental-housing insured loans under the National Housing Act has lowered the ceiling to 8 3/4 per cent from 8 7/8 per cent, effective October 1.

The new ceiling also applies to insured loans on existing housing and home-improvement loans.

Mr. Hignett also announced that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation would make direct loans for home-owner and rental housing at 8 1/2 per cent.

The ceiling rate beyond which CMHC cannot insure loans made by NHA approved lenders fluctuates in relation to changing yields on Government of Canada bonds. The National Housing Act provides for a maximum rate at 2 1/4 per cent above the yield on long-term Government of Canada bonds. In practice it is adjusted downward to the nearest one-eighth of 1 per cent.

Going rates charged by approved lenders have varied during the past few months and are currently averaging about 8.70 per cent for home-owner loans and 8.85 per cent for rental housing.

The new ceiling will remain in effect until the next quarterly adjustment on January 1 next year.

FISHERY CONFERENCE

Three hundred delegates from the Canadian fishing and shipbuilding industries and other interested agencies were present at the formal opening of a Conference on Fishing Vessel Construction Materials in Montreal on October 1. Sponsored by the federal-provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee, which comprises the deputy ministers responsible for fisheries in the Federal Government and the governments of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, the meeting is the fourth in a series organized to improve efficiency and economic conditions in the Atlantic coast-fishing industry. Previous meetings were concerned with offshore fishing craft, the herring fishery and the potential development of fish protein concentrate.

Describing the subject of the present conference as important and timely, Dr. A.W.H. Needler, Deputy Minister of the federal Department of Fisheries, chairman of the three-day meeting, noted that the use of materials other than wood and steel in building fishing craft was a relatively recent development.

Thirty-three papers dealing with various aspects of vessel-building materials were presented by specialists from Canada, the United States, Japan, South Africa and leading European fishing countries.