

ATTACK ON POLLUTION

Scientists employed by the Federal Government will launch a large-scale assault this summer on the problem of pollution in the Great Lakes.

"This is a part of the growing federal effort to combat this serious problem in the Great Lakes", Mr. Jean Luc Pépin, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, said recently. "It represents a more tightly co-ordinated approach to understanding Great Lakes pollution than has been possible in the past. Three important federal agencies, my own Department, the Department of National Health and Welfare, and the Fisheries Research Board are combining forces — each agency contributing money and scientists to conduct the special studies for which they are best qualified. On the provincial side, the Ontario Water Resources Commission is carrying out its investigations which are intimately co-ordinated with those of the federal agencies".

CONCERTED ACTION

Each federal agency will, according to Mr. Pépin, attack problems requiring its special talents and knowledge, and the information obtained will finally be collated. His own Department will be concentrating on physical studies of the Lakes. The Department of National Health and Welfare will, Mr. Pépin added, be concerned with health hazards, water quality and bacteriology. The Fisheries Research Board is preparing for intensive studies on the problem of enrichment of the waters. The Ontario Water Resources Commission is concentrating on measurements of the discharge of pollutants from tributaries and the near-shore distribution for Lake Erie and a large part of Lake Ontario. Similar measurements are being made by the Department of National Health and Welfare in the eastern portion of Lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence River.

For part of the programme, Mines and Technical Surveys has chartered the 136-foot stern trawler *Brandal*, and fitted it out as a survey and research ship. The *Brandal* will be working out of Kingston, Ontario, where shore laboratories and supply depots of the two Federal Departments are located. Two 30-foot launches will be employed in the National Health and Welfare programme.

Under contract with the Federal Government, the Great Lakes Institute will make co-ordinated studies in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. "This year we are concentrating our studies in Lake Ontario to bring our knowledge of that lake up to what we know are the conditions in Lake Erie", said Mr. Pépin. "We want to be able to spot signs of any serious deterioration there before it develops".

EXPENDITURES

"Over \$1.5 million will be invested in this study of the lower lakes this year — 90 per cent of the cost being borne by the Federal Government. This investment will grow from year to year, reaching an estimated level of over \$5 million by 1970. It is my task to make sure that these investments by various agencies are applied to the most pressing problems

in a co-operative and co-ordinated way", said the Minister. "This co-operation has been growing closer as the magnitude of the problem has become recognized and the capabilities of the co-operating agencies have been developed".

PM CONFERENCE LEADER

Prime Minister Pearson announced recently that he would head the Canadian delegation at the Canada-West Indies Conference to be held in Ottawa in July. Other delegations will be led also by heads of government.

Mr. Pearson also announced the appointment of Mr. J.R. McKinney, a senior official of the Department of External Affairs, as General Secretary of the Conference. Mr. McKinney will be responsible for co-ordinating Conference preparations and arrangements on behalf of Canada, the host country, and will have assigned to him for this purpose a small secretariat composed of officials from various government departments.

AGENDA

The Conference will discuss relations between Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean countries under the headings of trade, development aid, transport and communications, migration, other economic questions, international questions of mutual interest and cultural relations.

CANADA-U.K. TAX AGREEMENT

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Minister of Finance, announced recently that the agreement signed December 6, 1965, between Canada and Britain for the avoidance of double taxation on certain classes of income has now been brought into force.

The agreement establishes a general rule, similar to that in other Canadian tax agreements, that pensions and annuities will be taxable only in the country where the recipient is resident. This is supplemented, in the case of certain government pensions, by an alternative rule that may be used by the recipients of these pensions if they choose. The purpose of the alternative rule is to preserve the position that persons in receipt of these government pensions had under the 1946 agreement that ceased to apply in Canada after December 31, 1964. Under this alternative rule, pensions that are paid in respect of Canadian or British government or military services and meet the conditions laid down in the agreement, are taxable only in the country of source. Because income tax in Britain is, in general, heavier than in Canada, it is expected that most residents of Canada who receive government pensions from Britain or Northern Ireland will choose to be taxed in Canada instead of Britain.

Another provision of the agreement is that copy-