

construction, especially trollers of under ten tons. Freshwater fisheries produced well, but their markets were sluggish in the early months of 1961, leaving them with rather heavy warehouse supplies in the Prairie Provinces at the end of April.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER POST

The world's first isotope-powered, automatic weather station will soon go into operation in the Canadian Arctic, it was announced on July 21 by the Department of Transport of Canada, the United States Department of Commerce Weather Bureau and the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Installation is to be carried out in August.

For many years meteorologists have dreamed of systematic weather observations obtained from strategically-located areas of the remote Arctic. Many of the desired locations, however, are difficult of access, and to establish manned stations there would raise such problems as the recruiting of "isolation staff" and the maintenance of resupply operations. An automatic weather station capable of functioning unattended for up to two years has now been developed. Earlier difficulties created by the lack of a continuous power source have been eliminated by the use of isotope power.

U.S. DESIGNS EQUIPMENT

The United States Atomic Energy Commission and the United States Weather Bureau led in the design and fabrication of equipment to provide reliability consistent with the long life of the isotope, to use a minimum of electric energy and to provide accurate weather data in usable form. The station has undergone extensive tests in Baltimore, Maryland, and is ready for installation.

The close co-operation maintained between the United States Weather Bureau and the Department of Transport of Canada prompted the latter's meteorological service to suggest that the station be installed for trial and operational use in the Canadian Arctic. As a result, it will be located on a remote, uninhabited island in the vicinity of Norwegian Bay, about mid-way between the joint Arctic weather stations at Eureka and Resolute.

The station and its power source are housed in a cylindrical, insulated container about eight feet long. The lower five feet will be buried in the permanently frozen ground.

INSTRUMENTS USED

Rugged and reliable weather instruments - an anemometer, a thermometer and a barometer - mounted as integral parts of the station will measure wind direction and speed, temperature and barometric pressure. These readings will be fed into a data-processing system and will emerge ready to go directly into the radio transmitter, which, in turn, will relay them every three hours to the receiving stations at Resolute and Alert. The anemometer and thermometer will be exposed on a tower beside the station,

while the barometer will be placed in the cylinder with recording equipment, radio transmitters, antenna and other electrical apparatus.

One of the station's unique features is the power source, located in the lower chamber of the container. Consisting of a Strontium-90 heat generator and thermocouples, batteries and a converter, it uses a safe insoluble chemical form of the isotope Strontium-90 securely locked in a corrosion-resistant capsule and shielded by three quarters of a ton of lead. The excess heat from the Strontium-90 is used to maintain an interior operating temperature of approximately 70 degrees Fahrenheit. This element produces thermo-energy to charge a nickel-cadmium storage battery system, which in turn activates the radio transmitter. The isotope of Strontium-90 has a relatively long half-life and is capable of producing usable power for over ten years. The compound used, Strontium-titanate, is insoluble and biologically inert, with a melting point so high that it could not be dispersed by the hottest gasoline fires.

The complete station is being transported by truck from the United States to Canada, where it will be loaded on the Department of Transport icebreaker CMS "John A. Macdonald" for transportation to its destination.

NEWTON TO BOGOTA AND QUITO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced on July 24 the appointment of Mr. Theodore F.M. Newton as Ambassador to Colombia and Ecuador, to succeed Mr. Jean Morin, who had been appointed Ambassador to Portugal.

Mr. Newton was born in Sarnia, Ontario, in July 1903. He received his education at McGill University, where he was an assistant instructor and lecturer from 1925 to 1928. He was an instructor and tutor at Harvard University from 1928 to 1937, and during that period was awarded two travelling fellowships for research in London. From 1937 to 1943 he was an associate professor and assistant warden of Douglas Hall at McGill. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1947, serving as First Secretary in the Canadian Embassy in Washington, and, later, as Consul in Boston. From October 1950 until May 1953 he served as Director of Information, North Atlantic Council; and from 1954 to 1957 as Minister-Counsellor in Tokyo. From 1958 to 1960 he was Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia.

NEW CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

On July 24, the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada announced that they had appointed Louis Rasminsky, Deputy Governor of the Bank for the past six and half years, as Governor to replace the recently-retired James E. Coyne. Mr. Rasminsky automatically became President of the Industrial Development Bank.