

Board, installations of the Toronto Harbor Commission, Hamilton Harbor and the canal operations of the St. Lawrence Authority above Montreal and along the Welland Canal.

In 1954, a Department of Transport group visited the U.S.S.R. and Finland to examine icebreaking problems and icebreaking methods. The following year, a party of icebreaking experts from the Soviet Union came to Canada as the Department of Transport's guests, to gain first-hand information of Canadian icebreaking methods in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and lower St. Lawrence River areas.

Transport Minister Don Jamieson plans to visit the U.S.S.R. at a later date.

CANADA COUNCIL NEW CHIEFS

Appointments to the two top positions at the Canada Council were announced last month by the Secretary of State, Mr. Gérard Pelletier. John G. Prentice, an industrialist from Vancouver, becomes Chairman, and Montreal sociologist Guy Rocher, Vice-Chairman. Each will serve for a five-year term effective June 5. They fill the vacancies made by the departure of Jean Martineau, Q.C., of Montreal and Dr. Francis Leddy of Windsor, whose terms of office as Chairman and Vice-Chairman expired late in June.

Appointments to the 21-member Council that is responsible for distributing federal support to the arts, social sciences and humanities, are made from leading citizens, scholars and artists as well as representatives of the general public. The Council is supported in its work by a permanent staff in Ottawa, including a Government-appointed chief executive, and two large panels of experts, one for the program of research aid and the other for the arts.

COSTS OF CIGARETTE-SMOKING

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, said recently that cigarette-smoking was a serious burden on the Canadian economy. Commenting on a study entitled *The Estimated Cost of Certain Identifiable Consequences of Cigarette-Smoking upon Health, Longevity and Property in Canada in 1966*, carried out by his Department's Research and Statistics Directorate, Mr. Munro said:

"In recent weeks, in testimony given to the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, we have heard a good deal about the economic importance of tobacco production and cigarette manufacture and sale. It is reasonable for such testimony to be given. However, there are various ways to look at this health problem and I thought it advisable to comment on the other side of the issue — the costs of cigarette-smoking in economic as well as other terms — and make available data which indicate the magnitude of these costs. Our estimates suggest that dollar costs are of the order of \$400 million a year."

The estimated cost of certain identifiable consequences of cigarette-smoking in Canada in 1966, as far as it could be determined by the Department, amounted to \$388 million. Lung cancer accounted for \$56 million of this, coronary heart disease for \$201 million, chronic bronchitis for \$14 million, emphysema for \$7 million, other disabilities for \$96 million, and fires caused by smoking for \$13.5 million. The four diseases, to the extent they are attributed to smoking, caused 29,000 cases of illness treated by physicians, 755,000 patient-days in hospital and 5,900 deaths before age 65 for the year 1966.

ESTIMATES CONSERVATIVE

Mr. Munro pointed out that estimates of any kind require that certain assumptions be made, but he believed however that the report *understated* the cost of smoking. In addition to the economic savings, the Minister said, reduction or elimination of the hazards would free for other uses medical and hospital services now used to care for persons with conditions attributable to smoking.

"The potential value of reducing or eliminating the consequences of the hazard," he added, "also extends to alternative uses of money spent for cigarettes. It is reasonable to conclude that much of this money would be used to purchase other taxable goods and retained by the national economy. These considerations, of course, are of secondary importance to what can be done to prevent the suffering, disability and death which at present accompany the problem."

PARKS ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Canada's 18 national parks rose from 10,957,077 in 1967 to 11,855,084 in 1968.

Banff National Park as usual had the largest number of visitors last year — 2,157,847. Next came Prince Edward Island Park, with 1,345,799.

Visitors last year to national historic parks and national historic sites totalled 2,435,521, compared to 2,579,335 in 1967.

There were nearly 10 million visits to Ontario's 96 provincial parks in 1968 and a million visits to the province's 17,000 campsites. Ontario, with more than 8 million acres, has one of the biggest networks of parklands in the world.

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Canadian university and college enrolment continued to set records during the 1967-68 academic year. Some 261,207 full-time university students were in attendance at all Canadian universities and colleges at December 1, 1967, an increase of 12.3 per cent over the comparable total of 232,672 at December 1, 1966.