

## MEDAL TO ARCTIC GEOLOGIST

An Ottawa geologist whose work and discoveries in Canada's Arctic have helped focus new attention on the Far North and its economic possibilities has been awarded the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for his contribution to the knowledge of Canadian geography and geology.

Announcement of the award to Dr. Yves O. Fortier, 50, Chief of the Geological Survey of Canada's Economic Geology Division, was announced recently by the President of the Society, Dr. O.M. Solandt. Governor-General Vanier presented the medal in a ceremony at Government House on February 24.

### OLD MOUNTAIN ROOTS DISCOVERED

Dr. Fortier began his studies of the Arctic Archipelago in 1947. Two years later, he discovered that mountain systems had once occupied the Queen Elizabeth Islands. Such features had been known previously only on the Eastern Arctic islands, where mountains still existed. This major structural framework of the North American continent he named the Innuitian Region, comparing it with the Cordillera Region in Western North America and the Appalachian Region in the East.

He was quick to recognize the Arctic's oil-bearing potentialities, and was the first to launch and direct geological programmes in the Arctic to verify his deductions. In the first of these programmes in 1950, he became one of the few white men to circumnavigate Cornwallis Island in a canoe, a voyage of some 300 miles over treacherous and uncharted waters.

Further geological clues to the Arctic's oil potential were obtained during this programme, and

led to the launching of "Operation Franklin" in 1955, the first large-scale geological reconnaissance of the Arctic Islands. It was in support of this operation that Dr. Fortier pioneered the use of helicopters for surveys in the high Arctic.

Dr. Fortier's work in the Arctic fell into three main categories — outlining the main tectonic and geomorphological features, general mineral exploration and exploration aimed at determining the oil potential.

### OIL FINDS

He became interested in the Arctic's oil possibilities after finding bituminous carbonate rock on the northwest coast of Victoria Island. He first mentioned his findings publicly during a lecture at the National Museum in 1947. But it was not until 1955, before a meeting of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, that his convictions sparked the interest of private companies and led to drilling operations on Cornwallis, Melville and Bathurst islands.

Dr. Fortier makes little of the fact that his work took him and some of his colleagues deep into Canada's far northern region at a time when little or nothing, geologically or geographically, was known of vast areas of the Arctic. Long periods of isolation, exposure to danger and coping with some of the worst weather conditions in the world he took in his stride.

The Quebec-born geologist sums up his experiences and accomplishments in the Arctic in typically modest fashion: "There was a job there that needed doing — and I wanted to help do it."

## POLYMER BUDGET, 1964

The 1964 capital budget of Polymer Corporation Limited was recently released by E.R. Rowzee, President and Managing Director. The budget has as its primary objective the maintenance of a satisfactory level of profitability and retention of the company's strong position in the synthetic-rubber markets of the world.

The dominant feature of the synthetic-rubber industry is over-capacity and intense competition, with resultant price deterioration. Within this economic climate, Polymer's objectives can best be achieved by adapting existing plant facilities to changing market conditions and technological advances, by seeking out and developing attractive new business opportunities, and by increased emphasis on research and development.

### CAPITAL-SPENDING PLANS

The 1964 capital-spending programme of \$14.6 million represents the requirements of Polymer Corporation and its subsidiary companies. The cost of modifications or improvements to the plant at Sarnia, Ontario, are estimated at about \$5.5 million.

This includes projects to increase production flexibility, to maintain a high level of technical service to customers, to improve product quality, and to expand the company's product and process research and development programme. Improvements in plant service for waste-disposal and pollution-control systems are scheduled. About \$2.4 million is allocated to carry out alterations at the specialty-rubber plant in Strasbourg and for completion of construction costs on the butyl plant in Antwerp.

### KEEPING IN STEP TECHNOLOGICALLY

Polymer's ability to compete on a world-wide basis will be enhanced by keeping step with technological developments in all areas of its activity. It is planned to spend about \$6.7 million for the development and manufacture of new products at the Sarnia plant and for participation in important new synthetic-rubber projects. In 1963 an initial investment was made in the newly-formed Synthetic Rubber Co. (Pty.) Ltd. in South Africa. This plant will be in operation during 1964 and funds are allocated in this year's budget to complete Polymer's share of this investment.