

NORTHERN ROAD AGREEMENT

An agreement between the Canadian and United States Governments to maintain the Haines Road on a permanent basis was recently announced by Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing.

The 159-mile Haines Road stretches from the seaport of Haines in the Alaska Panhandle through the northern tip of British Columbia to Haines Junction in the Yukon, where it connects with the Alaska Highway leading to Fairbanks, Alaska. Forty-two miles of the road lie in the Panhandle, 52 in British Columbia and 65 in the Yukon.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Canadian Government, which is responsible for summer maintenance, will assume full responsibility for the winter maintenance of that part of the Haines Road lying in Canada. The State of Alaska, through the U.S. Government, has given assurance that it will continue to assume responsibility for the part of the Haines Road lying in Alaska.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Births registered in Canada in June dropped 9.9 per cent to 31,030 from 34,481 in June 1966, the greatest decline being reported in Quebec, where registrations were down to 8,005 from 10,837. Other provinces showing decreases were Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia recorded higher birth registrations in June 1967 than in the same month last year.

Birth registrations from January to June were down 4.7 per cent to 189,615 from 198,866, with Quebec again leading the decline with a drop of 10.4 per cent to 52,095 in 1967 from 58,120 in the same period of 1966. Only Alberta and British Columbia showed increased birth registrations in the six months.

The 14,225 marriages recorded in provincial registries during the month (14,152 in June 1966) brought the total number registered during the six-month period to 59,744, an 8.6 percent rise over last year's total of 54,997. Deaths numbered 12,436 in June, slightly higher than last year's 12,320. During

the six-month period they were down 2.9 per cent to 75,184 from 75,431, seven provinces reporting decreases.

NEW HOMES

The number of starts on dwelling units in centres of 10,000 population and over totalled 16,096 in May, 56.9 percent higher than the May 1966 total of 10,224. Substantial increases were reported in most provinces, the Manitoba figure being 714 in May - almost four times the 184 of May 1966 - and starts in Alberta rising to 1,380, more than double last May's 503. Other increases were: British Columbia, 1,682 this year (956 in 1966); Saskatchewan, 516 (274); Ontario, 8,213 (5,762); Quebec, 3,155 (2,126); New Brunswick, 145 (105); and Prince Edward Island 3 (nil). Starts in Newfoundland, 153 (169), and Nova Scotia, 135 (145), were down during the month.

During the period as a whole, starts rose to 38,841 from 36,580, increases being reported in Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. May completions numbered 11,533. January-May completions, at 45,878, were below the corresponding 1966 five-month total of 59,330.

FLYERS FÊTE WARTIME HELPERS

The Canadian branch of the Royal Air Force Escaping Society recently invited to Canada seven former members of European underground organizations who had helped Royal Canadian Air Force flyers escape from prison camps during the Second World War. Considering the centennial year an appropriate time to show their gratitude, RCAF members of the Escaping Society invited two former underground agents from France and one each from Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway and Greece to spend two and a half weeks in Canada.

Shortly after their arrival in Ottawa on September 13, the visitors will be taken on a tour of Niagara Falls. On September 21 they will be greeted in Ottawa by Prime Minister Pearson and other Government officials, after which they will spend five days at Expo '67.