

EASTERN ARCTIC PATROL: Sailing in the Transport Department vessel "C.D. Howe", the Eastern Arctic Patrol have just completed a 10,000 mile expedition to the Canadian North.

This was the 28th expedition of the eastern Arctic Patrol, now a combined effort of six government departments pooling equipment and such northern services as administration, medical, postal, hydrographic survey and welfare aids. The officer in charge of the Patrol was Alex Stevenson, (Verdun, P.Q.) Arctic Division, Department of Resources and Development. He was assisted by G. Johnston (Ottawa) of the same Department.

Members of the expedition visited fifteen settlements. The Patrol handled a huge volume of mail, started the 1951 census rolling in the Arctic and sailed as far as Dundas Harbour, 2,500 miles north of Ottawa. The Patrol sailed from Montreal July 17 and returned to base September 25.

Many passengers were picked up or dropped along the way, among them the Right Reverend D.B. Marsh, Bishop of the Arctic, Oblate Missionaries, Hudson's Bay Company officials and Eskimos moving from camp to camp. At River Clyde fifteen members of the Arctic Institute Expedition were taken on board. This party had spent the spring and summer of this year on a Baffin Island glacier collecting scientific data.

The success of the Patrol this year was darkened by the loss of one of its members, the interpreter, S.G. Ford of St. John's, Newfoundland. Mr. Ford lost his life in the crash of a helicopter, part of the equipment aboard the "C.D. Howe".

When the Patrol visits a settlement in the Arctic, Eskimos congregate from miles around. At each port the doctor on the Patrol examined the Eskimos. A dentist was kept busy checking, extracting and filling teeth for Canada's northern citizens, whites and Eskimos. This year, with modern equipment, more than a thousand Eskimos were checked by X-ray. The general standard of health was good and there was a remarkable improvement in the children. This was felt to be the effect of nutritious foods given in payment of family allowances which are intended to supplement, not supplant, the regular Eskimos diet of flesh, fowl and fish.

Members of the Patrol, this season, organized plans for the task of taking the 1951 census in the Arctic.

Members of the party declared that the polar weather had been wonderful: "Sunny skies, light winds and calm seas were the order of the day". They were amazed to learn that southern Canada had experienced such a cold summer.

EMPLOYMENT INCREASES: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg, issued the following statement on the current employment situation on October 3:

The increasing tempo of manufacturing activity and peak farm labour needs for har-

vesting highlighted the employment scene during the first half of September. In some areas, shortages of farm workers increased, since cold weather had delayed some harvests until after students who normally work on farms had returned to school. In general, the strong demand for Canadian goods and services both at home and abroad and the maintenance of large investment expenditures are resulting in continued declines in the numbers of jobless workers.

On September 14, there were 140,300 registrations for employment on file at National Employment Service offices, a decline of 11,300 from the first of the month, and only 1,600 above the total a year ago. Registrations on hand from men alone were 12,000 below the total at the same time last year. The largest decline in registrations in the first two weeks of September occurred in the Prairie and Ontario regions; in the Maritime region, there was a slight increase.

Recent defence orders have created many new jobs in shipyards and aircraft factories in Ontario and Quebec, and experienced workers are much in demand. Many primary iron and steel plants and steel fabricating firms are also increasing their staffs. Numerous vacancies are on hand for skilled machinists, tool and die makers and moulders, and shortages of suitable applicants exist in some cases. Employment in sawmills and smelters was also at high levels, as a result of the continuing strong demand for lumber and base metals in the United States. The seasonal increase in production in some textile firms and canning factories meant some improvement in the employment situation for women, although the number of women registering for work at local employment offices was still 13,700 above that of last year.

Shortages of skilled construction workers continue in most areas, as the construction industry reaches its seasonal peak. The mining industries in Northern Ontario and Quebec were reporting some difficulty in securing an adequate supply of workers, and were depending on immigration to meet some of their needs. Shortages of labour continue also in the lumber and logging industries in most sections, although the end of the pulp peeling season in the Maritimes had temporarily reduced labour needs there.

WAGES AT NEW PEAK FOR AUGUST 1: Industrial employment and per capita weekly wages and salaries for all Canada again moved upward at the beginning of August, according to advance figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics. Although the general gain throughout the country was moderate, it brought employment to a higher level than at August 1 in any other year, while per capita weekly wages also reached a record for that date.

The advance index number of employment on the base 1926 equals 100, stood at 204.1 as