

FOREST PRODUCTION

The volume of Canada's forest production in 1960 increased 6.9 per cent to 3,405,417,000 cubic feet from 3,186,387,000 in the preceding year, and the value advanced 12.7 per cent to \$806,488,000 from \$715,716,000, according to advance figures that will be contained in the 1960 issue of the annual report "Operations in the Woods, and Final Estimates of Forest Production", published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of leading primary forest products in 1960, expressed in equivalent volume of merchantable timber: logs and bolts, 1,728,012,000 cubic feet (1,650,176,000 in 1959); logs for pulping, 196,649,000 (165,856,000); pulpwood, 1,189,352,000 (1,075,233,000); fuelwood, 240,304,000 (249,314,000). Values for these items: logs and bolts, \$385,924,000 (\$344,424,000); logs for pulping, \$45,336,000 (\$32,115,000); pulpwood, \$311,579,000 (\$288,129,000); and fuelwood, \$36,896,000 (\$26,520,000).

THE ARCTIC'S FLOATING ISLANDS

Some 200 square miles of the ice-shelf that extends north from Ellesmere Island has become detached and is floating free in the Arctic Ocean. The breakaway, reported in mid-April by a reconnaissance plane of the Royal Canadian Air Force, is believed by Defence Research Board scientists to have maintained its original position near the shore of Ellesmere for hundreds of years.

Detachment of the ice-shelf became apparent to crew members when they spotted a vehicle on a small ice island. The shelf had apparently drifted 30 miles from its original landfast position near the field research area of a United States party active in 1960.

Dr. Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, Defence Research Board glaciologist who returned recently from the DRB research station at Lake Hazen on Ellesmere Island, reports: "Many new floating ice islands have resulted from the breakaway. Four or five are of considerable size, including one of approximately 60 square miles".

The Ellesmere shelf is believed to have been the birthplace of several other ice islands during the past 20 years. One, known as T-3, has been occupied intermittently by U.S. scientific teams during the past ten years. Scientists from the Soviet Union established a station on a similar ice island in 1956.

SCIENTIFIC USE

Ice islands differ from other Arctic ice floes in their unusual thickness and their typical smooth-ridge and furrow-surface pattern. Their bulk and resistance to breakup make them ideal platforms for scientific research. Previous investigations have provided significant data on ice drift, meteorology, ocean depths and temperatures, and related scientific topics.

Of particular interest to DRB scientists is the eastward drift of one of the largest of the new ice islands. The others appear to be moving west-

ward in accordance with the drift pattern generally believed to obtain in this sector of the Arctic Ocean.

In order to maintain a continuous picture of the movement of the largest of the new ice islands, the Defence Research Board, in co-operation with the Polar Shelf Project of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, arranged to place a number of radar reflectors on this 13-mile x 5-mile island off Point Moss. Placed in position by means of a helicopter, the reflectors will facilitate tracking with airborne radar equipment. The radar records will be forwarded to Ottawa for study at DRB headquarters and by scientists from other interested agencies.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO INDEPENDENCE

At the independence ceremonies for the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago, which began on August 30 in Port-of-Spain and will continue until September 5 Canada is represented by the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. J. Angus MacLean. The new state became independent on August 31. Its Government has decided to remain in the Commonwealth.

Mr. MacLean carried a message from Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker to Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, conveying the good wishes of the people of Canada to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

In response to an invitation from the Trinidad and Tobago Government, two ships of the Royal Canadian Navy - the destroyed escorts "Iroquois" and "Huron" - have been made available for the celebrations.

VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits issued to foreign vehicles entering Canada in July numbered 1,293,797, an increase of 1.4 per cent from the total of 1,276,199 a year earlier. This brought the number issued in the January-July period to 3,942,446, larger by 5.9 per cent than last year's 3,724,332.

Entries were more numerous in July this year than last in all provinces but New Brunswick and Quebec. The totals: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 3,700 (3,692 in July last year); New Brunswick, 66,443 (68,566); Quebec, 111,347 (114,622); Ontario, 95,258 (95,822); Manitoba, 19,153 (18,134); Saskatchewan, 8,667 (7,654); Alberta, 18,220 (17,570); British Columbia, 102,749 (84,032); and the Yukon Territory, 4,260 (3,706).

January-July entries by provinces: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 5,585 (5,581); New Brunswick, 222,916 (203,830); Quebec, 354,476 (346,269); Ontario, 2,924,543 (2,794,209); Manitoba, 56,870 (59,442); Saskatchewan, 27,941 (26,105); Alberta, 34,671 (33,997); British Columbia, 305,868 (246,693); and Yukon and Northwest Territories, 9,576 (8,206).