

the East and West coasts and in the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes from time to time throughout the year.

Elsewhere across the country, the 21 divisions of the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) will be holding special anniversary ceremonies throughout the year, and most divisions will be hosts to the public at open-house functions.

The anniversary will be the theme of naval veterans' reunions held this year. Naval veterans of the Montreal area plan a reunion May 6-8; the Canadian Naval Association will hold its sixth annual reunion at Cobourg, Ontario, June 11-12; and the Naval Officers Associations of Canada will hold their annual meeting at Charlottetown, June 9-11.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS

Claimants for unemployment insurance benefits totalled 823,000 on March 31, slightly above the February 29 total of 814,200 and 7 per cent higher than the 766,900 claimants recorded one year ago, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in an advance statement. Claimants for seasonal benefits included in these totals were: 248,500 on March 31, 217,100 on February 29 and 258,300 one year ago. Thus, while claimants for regular benefits showed a decline from February to March, they were 13 per cent higher than a year ago.

The initial and renewal claims filed during March numbered 283,500, an increase of almost 20 per cent over those for February, and nearly 25 per cent above those for last March. Part of the month-to-month increase in initial claims is attributable to persons who have exhausted their regular benefits and wish to be considered under the seasonal benefit provisions. Such cases do not constitute new separations from employment during the current month. The failure rate on initial claims processed during March, at 7.3 per cent, was identical with last March and slightly under the 9.8 per cent for February.

Benefit payments at \$74.8 million were almost 20 per cent above the February total of \$62.6 million, and were 14 per cent in excess of those of last March, when payments reached \$65.9 million.

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NEW MARITIME WEATHER OFFICE

A new weather office of the Department of Transport was formally opened on April 14 at Fredericton, New Brunswick, to serve the province's agricultural and industrial interests, public utilities and the public at large.

"The new weather office in Fredericton will help place the resources of the national weather service more firmly behind the agencies having primary responsibilities in those areas

most directly sensitive to weather conditions", said Mr. Hees, federal Minister of Transport. "This is in keeping with the recently published report of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council." Among the services to benefit from closer consultation with the weather office are agriculture, forestry, highways, public works and the electric power commission.

In addition, Mr. Hees said that Fredericton was the centre of large-scale federal research activity in forestry and agriculture and that the new weather office would help in assessing weather influences in a wide variety of research projects under study.

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AECB HEALTH RULES

The regulations made under the Atomic Energy Control Act have been revised to include a new section on health and safety, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Churchill, announced recently.

The announcement states that the Atomic Energy Control Board has always maintained a strict control over the distribution and use of radioactive materials in Canada. No person is permitted to obtain such material until the Board's health advisers (radiation safety officers of the Department of National Health and Welfare and, through them, their counterparts in provincial health departments) are satisfied that he has adequate facilities to handle the material requested and that his proposed operations will not cause a health and safety hazard. Federal or provincial inspectors periodically visit users of such materials to ensure that their operations do not cause injury or damage and to make sure that they are complying with any special health and safety requirements laid down by the Control Board on the recommendation of its expert advisers.

It has been recognized for some time, however, that there was a need for regulations to lay down Canadian standards as to the maximum dose of radiation atomic energy workers and the public generally should be permitted to receive and to provide means for ensuring that the operations of users of radioactive materials did not result in exposures above these limits. The question of making such regulations has been under discussion with provincial health authorities, through the Dominion Council of Health, for a number of years. It was first suggested that, since health and safety matters were normally dealt with by provincial authorities, the provinces might issue health regulations in this field that would be reasonably uniform across Canada, but for various reasons this suggestion was not adopted. It was then proposed that regulations establishing such standards be made under the Atomic Energy Control Act, but with recognition that individual provinces