

CHINAWARE AWARDS

An official of the Department of Industry announced recently that Vandesca-Syracuse Limited, makers of china, in conjunction with the "Canadian Design '67" programme, was sponsoring a number of awards for original designs in china tableware. "Canadian Design '67", administered by the National Design Council and the Department of Industry, is a nation-wide programme initiated to encourage the development of Canadian products of superior quality.

The awards will be known as "Canadian Design '67 Vandesca-Syracuse China Tableware Awards for the Best Designs Utilizing China". Cash prizes will help defray the cost of developing prototypes of products intended for commercial production.

The tableware-design awards programme is open to Canadian designers and manufacturers whose entries must be substantially designed and developed in Canada. If a design is from a non-Canadian source, it must have been commissioned by a Canadian manufacturer.

Products must be intended for manufacture in Canada, using chiefly Canadian materials and components.

OLD MILITARY POST EXCAVATED

The remains of a British military post dating from the late eighteenth century, situated about 30 miles southwest of Montreal, are to be preserved by the Canadian Government. Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, said recently that the foundations of 14 buildings had been uncovered during the summer at Coteau du Lac National Historic Site, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. The foundations, which are well preserved, will be repaired and stabilized.

The post was built in the late 1770s to protect small boats passing the troublesome Coteau Rapids. During the War of 1812 it was of key strategic importance.

A three-lock canal, cut through rock, was completed in 1781 under the direction of Captain William Twiss of the Royal Engineers, to permit the passage of the famous flat-bottomed bateaux. Stores, magazines and troop quarters were built at the same time.

An octagonal wooden blockhouse was added during the War of 1812, at which time a garrison was installed to defend the post and the canal. The stone foundation of this building is in an excellent state of preservation.

Barracks, storehouses, the commandant's quarters and further blockhouses were constructed early in the nineteenth century. The post was abandoned in 1851.

The foundations excavated so far date from several periods in the site's history. The canal has been partly cleared, exposing one of the wood lock-gates at the western end.

HEALTH RESOURCES FUND

At the Federal-Provincial Conference last July, Prime Minister Pearson announced a proposal to establish a Health Resources Fund that would supplement the Government's medicare proposals. Its purpose was to support the construction and equipment of facilities for health research and training, and thus to help the provinces improve the quality of the medical care available to Canadians.

The Prime Minister recently made the further announcement that the Government would provide \$500 million to the Fund. "We propose" he said, "that the Fund take effect on January 1 next. Since long-term planning is essential to projects of the kind it will support, the resources of the Fund will be available over a 15-year period. This means that an average of about \$33 million will be available each year for the purpose of the programme."

"The basic purpose of the Fund," the statement continued, "is to help meet the greater need for trained people to provide medicare services. Through the Fund, federal capital grants will be available for the construction, renovation and basic equipment of research establishments, teaching hospitals, medical schools and training facilities for other health personnel. Grants from the Fund will not be available to meet the operating costs of such establishments."

MAIL SERVICE INCREASED

Prime Minister Pearson recently announced an increase in letter-carrier delivery service that will bring mail deliveries to approximately 62,000 families that have at present to collect their mail from local post offices.

The extension, which will affect up to 28 communities across the country, results from the Government's decision to reduce the minimum number of calls on which letter-carrier service can be based from the present requirement of 2,500 points of call to 2,000. The reduction had been recommended by Postmaster General René Tremblay.

The Prime Minister said that it had become increasingly difficult for the Post Office to provide efficient service through general delivery and postal "lock boxes" in communities with more than 2,000 points of call. Usually, he added, when a community had grown to that size, congestion developed in the lobby and at the general-delivery wickets and difficulties arose in mail-handling operations.

How soon the new service will be introduced will depend on local situations. Considerable preparatory work will be required — towns must be divided into letter-carrier "walks", staff must be trained to sort mail to these areas, accommodation must be provided and new equipment obtained, the public must provide mail receptacles, and houses must be numbered and streets named.