

in use. It will take every opportunity to stress to importers Canada's reputation as a dependable source of top-quality fisheries products.

On its return to Canada, the mission will prepare a report on its observations, which will be published by the Department of Trade and Commerce and made available to the Canadian fisheries industry.

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NATIONAL SKI WEEK

Canadians were recently invited by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, to observe the third week of February as National Ski Week. In making the declaration, the Minister cited his own interest and his Department's support of skiing through the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate. "In a country such as ours, much of which is covered with snow for at least a third of the year, it is only natural that a sport such as skiing should flourish," he said. "We have the natural terrain for any and every type of skiing."

Mr. MacEachen observed that his Department recognized the value of skiing, and was at present producing an instructional book on the sport. A compendious "How-To" kit on skiing, he added, encompassing promotional and instructional films, had already been issued. The comprehensive manual would soon be available in English and French. Through grants under the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act, the Minister said, his Department had supported the Canadian Amateur Ski Association in its efforts to develop "a broad-based pyramid of amateur and expert skiers".

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PROTECTION OF SEAL HERDS

Expressions of international goodwill and a determination to conserve and rationally "harvest" a valuable marine resource keynoted the recent opening session of the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission's ninth annual meeting in Ottawa.

Mr. H.J. Robichaud, Minister of Fisheries, observed that the Commission had done an excellent job of protecting the fur-seal herds. "Sensible harvesting practices have been established in place of the reckless exploitation of earlier years", he said.

The four member nations — Canada, Japan, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. — have co-operated on conservation measures affecting fur seals for many years. These measures are now embodied in an Interim Convention signed by the participating nations in 1957.

Opening the session, the Commission Chairman, Dr. S.G. Fedorov of the U.S.S.R., said that the Commission was distinguished by a spirit of close cooperation and mutual understanding. Dr. Fedorov mentioned new investigations undertaken by the Commission on the quality of seal-skins, and said that the meeting should decide on further efforts to be made in this field.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on February 24 the following diplomatic appointments: Mr. Albert Edgar Ritchie, at present Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, as Ambassador to the United States of America; Mr. Charles S.A. Ritchie, at present Ambassador in Washington, as Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the North Atlantic Council, Paris; Mr. George Ignatieff, at present Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, as Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, New York.

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MET. POSTS MONITOR SATELLITES

Mr. J.W. Pickersgill, Minister of Transport, recently announced that Canada's weather service had set up test stations at Toronto International Airport and in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to receive information and pictures from orbiting United States weather satellites. The operation of these stations will help establish how many will be required.

The automatic picture-transmission receiving stations are equipped to receive signals from a series of *Tiros* operational satellites that the United States Environmental Science Services Administration plans to place in orbit.

The first satellite in the series was recently launched in to a polar orbit at a height of about 750 miles, circling the earth once every two hours. The satellites will take pictures by means of television-type cameras every six minutes or so. These pictures will cover an area about 1,500 miles wide; each time the satellite is within 1,000 miles of the Canadian stations, a series of pictures will be received.

MANY USES

The pictures, which will be used by the Canadian weather service to show clouds over a large part of North America and the Atlantic Ocean, will supplement the weather-observation network and will be particularly valuable where gaps occur in the existing networks, such as those in the Canadian North and over the Atlantic. In addition, they will provide a bird's-eye view that is difficult to obtain from a large number of separate reports. The photographs will also indicate the location of ice, information of vital importance to Arctic shipping. They can reveal large-scale geological formations otherwise difficult to detect. In addition, they may be useful in forestry, agriculture and oceanography. All these potentials will be examined to make maximum use of this new tool of the space age.

The Canadian stations are of an advanced design, manufactured by a Canadian firm with the assistance of experiments which are the continuing work of the National Research Council. The studies in the design and use of this equipment are expected to keep Canada in the forefront in the application of weather information from satellites.

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