

FAR NORTH EXPEDITION

Led by Dr. Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, 34-year-old Defence Research Board glaciologist, a group of eight scientists will begin the first of a three-phase geophysical, geological and climatological study of the Lake Hazen area in north Ellesmere Island early in May. The Defence Research Board-sponsored expedition to Canada's northernmost land mass will support the International Geophysical Year programme.

During phase one of "Operation Hazen", Dr. Hattersley-Smith and his associates will be airlifted to Lake Hazen by the RCAF to establish a base in the vicinity of Johns Island. The party will organize an advance camp on the nearby ice cap for geophysical, glaciological and meteorological studies.

Phase two will include the establishment of a winter site to obtain synoptic or general meteorological observations and to study the thermal regime of the lake over a 12-month period.

Plans for the third and final phase during 1958 will depend in size and scope on the results obtained this year. Scientific personnel may be added to the party to extend the 1957 work and to undertake biological investigations.

The Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Coastguard will support the expedition with air and sea transport and the Canadian Army is providing over-snow vehicles and cold weather equipment. About 100 pounds of dehydrated meat, prepared by a process developed recently at the Defence Research Medical Laboratories at Downsview, Ontario, will be tested under Arctic conditions.

About 70,000 pounds of summer and winter supplies will be required to support the operation for a six-month period. Nearly

13,000 pounds will be airlifted to the ice cap by RCAF ski-wheel aircraft from Resolute Bay late this month.

In addition to the leader of the expedition, members of the party during the initial phase of the project will be Dr. R.L. Christie, of the Geological Survey of Canada, and Dr. R.E. Deane, a pleistocene geologist, geophysicists Dr. F.S. Grant, H. Sandstrom and J.D. Filo, and K.C. Arnold, a surveyor, all representing the University of Toronto. To carry out research in the field of micro-meteorology will be J.R. Lotz, of McGill University. Sgt. David Engel, RCE, will accompany the group for the first month as a mechanic.

Because the experience of the members of the party range from activities in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and the high Arctic to the Antarctic and Greenland, valuable fundamental and practical geophysical information about this little known area of the Canadian north is expected to result from the investigations.

While studying the shelf ice bordering the north Ellesmere Island coast on two previous occasions, Dr. Hattersley-Smith returned to the Defence Research Board Headquarters with relics from past historic expeditions dating back to 1876. A particularly interesting find was a remnant of the United States' flag carried by the late Admiral Peary in 1909 when he claimed to have dashed across ice floes to the North Pole from Ellesmere Island.

The scientists will concentrate at Resolute Bay on April 25 for the flight to Lake Hazen. They plan to begin the programme about mid-May after establishing fuel and supply bases in the area to be studied.

CANADIAN DELEGATION: Col. J.H. Jenkins, of Ottawa, chief of the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada, will be head of the Canadian Delegation attending the Seventh British Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Australia and New Zealand August 26-October 10, according to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

The Canadian Delegation will present five technical papers on the development of Canadian wallboard manufacturing, grading and utilization in Canada, Canadian forest inventories, Canadian plant protection organizations, and a special study of a 70-year-old Douglas Fir stand in British Columbia. Some members will attend a preliminary conference on forest products and take part in various pre-conference tours of Australia August 12-25. The main conference will be held in Australia August 26-September 25 and in New Zealand September 26-October 10.

HOTEL CARPETS: First guests will not arrive at Montreal's new Queen Elizabeth Hotel until the spring of 1958 but Canadian National Railways announces that it has already started to roll out the welcome carpet--36 miles of it.

That is the length of carpeting that has been ordered from Canadian mills, at a total cost of more than \$350,000, to cover the convention hotel's 21 floors. It's a tall order--covering an imaginary stairway to the stars it would reach well into the stratosphere. Or, for those who like statistics, it's enough carpeting to meet the average requirements of more than 2,000 Canadian homes.

Only a third of this carpeting will be required to cover the more than 1,200 bedrooms in the hotel. More than 20 miles of carpeting will go on corridors and most of the remainder is tagged for convention rooms and banquet halls.