

IMPROVING HUDSON BAY NAVIGATION

The second phase of a three-year programme to improve existing aids to marine navigation, and establish a number of new radio beacons for shipping on the Labrador Coast, in Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay, will get under way shortly, it was announced recently by Transport Minister J.W. Pickersgill.

This year's programme will include the construction and equipping of two light towers, one radar reflector and four "transponder" radio beacons. The last is a device set in action by ships entering the area within the beacon's range. A special radio signal from a ship triggers the beacon's automatic transmitting device, which remains in action for five minutes, giving the station's call signal. A ship fitted only with radio-telephony can obtain the beacon signal by requesting the nearest coastal radio station responsible for monitoring the beacon to set the transponder beacon in action. Ships use the signal as a means of establishing their own position for purposes of navigation.

Apart from the new projects, technical crews from the Marine Works and Telecommunications and Electronics Branches of the Department of Transport will carry out servicing and maintenance of the 14 marine lights and two transponder radio beacons already in the area.

The crews will be based aboard the Canadian Coast Guard ice-breaking lighthouse and buoy tender "Simon Fraser", which will carry a helicopter to assist ship-to-shore operations.

LAST YEAR'S PROGRAMME

This year's new projects will be carried out at a cost of about \$80,000. Last year, the programme was confined largely to the establishment of lighted aids to navigation, including the erection of three light towers. One of these, on Resolution Island, is among the most powerful non-electric automatic lights in the world. It is operated by acetylene and, once in operation, serves throughout the season without further attention. If one of the light-producing mantles burns out, an automatic mantle-changer comes into operation.

At Wales Island and at Cape Pembroke on Coats Island, concrete helicopter landing pads will be constructed this season, to facilitate landings because of the extremely rough terrain. Use of helicopters has speeded up the servicing of the aids to navigation in the area. At some points, the crews formerly required an entire day to land compressed gas flasks and related equipment and transport them up cliffs hundreds of feet high. Such items can now be delivered and lights put in service by helicopter-borne crews without the tending ship having to make a stop.

ELECTRIC POWER

The net generation of electric energy by firms that produce a minimum of 10 million kilowatt hours a year amounted in May to 10,731,775,000 kilowatt hours, a rise of 5.5 per cent from last year's May total of 10,177,012,000 kwh. Electric energy imported

rose in the month to 244,896,000 kwh from 206,200,000, and the amount exported to 336,816,000 kwh from 324,101,000. The amount used in electric boilers in May decreased 37.5 per cent, to 278,867,000 kwh from 446,338,000 a year earlier, while the amount made available for primary uses increased 7.8 per cent, to 10,360,983,000 kwh from 9,612,773,000.

From January to May 1, the generation of electric energy climbed 9.4 per cent, to 55,467,754,000 kwh from 50,724,028,000 in the corresponding period last year. Imports were down to 1,023,430,000 kwh from 1,157,263,000 a year earlier, while exports were up to 1,763,492,000 kwh from 1,619,133,000. The electric energy used in electric boilers declined 45.5 per cent in the five months, to 1,107,852,000 kwh from 2,031,246,000, while the energy made available for primary purposes advanced 11.2 per cent, to 53,619,840,000 kwh from 48,230,912,000.

MILITARY ATTACHES ON TOUR

Twelve attachés from countries represented in Canada's capital participated in a tri-service tour of Canadian armed forces establishments from July 10 to 16. Their itinerary included visits to the Citadel in Quebec City and Camp Valcartier, Quebec, and to Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, where they watched troops training in the field, and a tour of training facilities at the Royal Canadian Air Force station at Greenwood, Nova Scotia.

The officers and the countries they represent are: Major R. Simmons, Britain; Colonel J.C. Fernandez, Colombia; Lieutenant Colonel V. Michelle, Dominican Republic; Major L.A. Koho, Finland; Colonel E. Rathmann, Germany; Colonel Soebambang, Indonesia; Lieutenant Colonel F.J.A. Lutz, The Netherlands; Colonel J.N. Elatt, South Africa; Captain E.J. Driscoll, United States; Colonel E.A. Linares and Major J.B. Fontiveros, Venezuela, and Colonel J.L. Szigelj, of Yugoslavia.

development, which will be conducted by the Indian Affairs Branch on its own and in association with various provincial and other agencies.

FIVE-MONTH FOREST-FIRE FIGURES

Estimates of forest areas burned in Canada to the end of May this year totalled 139,000 acres, compared to 99,000 for the same period last year.

In its monthly release of national forest-fire statistics, the federal Department of Forestry reports that the acreage burned this year resulted from 2,439 fires. A total of 2,115 fires had been recorded at the end of May last year.

The breakdown for the current forest-fire season is as follows:

To the end of April - 547 fires, 20,000 acres. Two very small fires in the Yukon caused no appreciable damage.

May - 1,892 fires, 119,000 acres, including 10 minor fires in the Yukon and Northwest Territories that burned only a few acres.