

**COMMUNITY PLANNING:** Public Works Minister Robert Winters has announced that Federal financial encouragement to students of community planning and housing is to be provided through 20 fellowships and bursaries to be awarded by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the academic year 1957-58.

In making the announcement, Mr. Winters stated that urban expansion had created an urgent need for people qualified in community planning. The purpose of the awards is to stimulate interest in planning as a profession in Canada in view of present needs and future requirements of governments at all levels for expert guidance in urban development.

The awards, which are being provided under Part V of the National Housing Act, include two senior fellowships for applicants with professional experience in city planning or residential development. These will be awarded to persons who wish to undertake special studies or research and who are qualified to make an original contribution to the knowledge of planning or housing in Canada. Recipients will be expected to devote their full time to such work for at least eight months.

Fifteen fellowships of \$1,200 each are offered to graduates of recognized universities in the social sciences, architecture or civil engineering who wish to take professional training in community planning. The fellowships are tenable at universities which offer community planning courses (McGill, Toronto, Manitoba and British Columbia). Applicants must meet the academic requirements of the university they choose and be prepared to undertake a prescribed course of study.

Three bursaries of \$800 each are available for graduate students who wish to undertake special studies of housing or urban development other than in established planning courses.

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**HIGHWAY ENGINEERING:** A programme of post-graduate instruction in highway engineering will be inaugurated at the University of Alberta this year, according to the Alberta Government publication "Within Our Borders". First of its kind in Canada, the course will be under the direction of the Civil Engineering department of the University.

One of the main objectives of the new programme is to provide expanded facilities for advanced instruction for young engineering graduates in preparation for any one of many positions in highway engineering.

Research efforts concerned with problems of highway construction and maintenance, as well as related fields of traffic and safety on highways will be greatly expanded.

The research aspect of the new programme will be in co-operation with the Research Council of Alberta. Work will be done under the direction of university staff, using university facilities. The graduate student thesis projects will be closely integrated with current research programmes.

Another major objective of the course is dissemination of topical information among the technical personnel of organizations concerned with highway transportation. It is expected to publish bulletins and papers, and hold schools or conferences organized on an extension course basis.

The educational, research and extension programmes were carefully combined into an integrated programme after study of similar projects at various schools in the United States and in Europe.

The degree course in Civil engineering at all Canadian universities is considered to provide a suitable engineering background for a graduate wishing to enter the highway construction field. Post graduate courses providing a more specialized background in highway transportation have been available at the University of Alberta for the past twelve years, but they have not been closely integrated with the needs of the industry.

The new programme involves an expansion and extension of existing post-graduate courses. Soil mechanics and foundation engineering courses, the fundamental basis of modern road design and construction, will be continued. Instruction will cover the design and control of construction of asphalt and concrete pavements, and highway planning and traffic engineering. Elective courses with subjects such as highway bridge design and river engineering will be available.

Two scholarships valued at \$2,000 each have been made available through the Canadian Good Roads Association.

Research projects concerned with highway problems will be greatly expanded. Problems resulting from soil and climatic conditions peculiar to Western Canada and the Far North will be given attention. These include compaction of soils, prevention of frost heaving of soils by chemical treatments, effect of cycles of freezing and thawing on strength of soils, treatments to improve the stability characteristics of base course gravels of types having exceptionally high affinity for water, and stabilizing factors of slides of a particular nature which occur widely along river valleys in Northern Alberta, North-eastern British Columbia and parts of the Yukon.

Highway transportation plays a significant part in Canada's economy. Total expenditures connected with automotive transportation exceed one and one-half billion dollars annually. One person of every seven, directly or indirectly, draw their livelihood from it. Expenditure for highway construction and maintenance programmes in the western provinces during the next fiscal year is estimated at \$150,000,000.

It is hoped the course will provide solutions to various problems resulting in substantial savings in construction and maintenance costs.