

publication *Preliminary Statistics of Education*. A detailed treatment of personal and family income, based on the results of this survey, will be published in a forthcoming DBS bulletin entitled *Distribution of Non-Farm Incomes in Canada by Size, 1959*. This report will relate income not only to education but to type and locality of residence, sex, age, immigration status, size of family, and so on.

MUSKEG RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The annual Canadian Muskeg Research Conference will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, May 17 and 18. This will be the eighth such meeting and will be sponsored by the Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics of the National Research Council of Canada. These conferences afford an opportunity for those interested in muskeg and the problems it represents to meet and discuss mutual problems and their solutions. Featured at this year's conference will be a discussion of the "why and how" of muskeg. In addition, papers considering phases of research, design and practice as they pertain to engineering problems arising from muskeg, highway construction, trafficability, corrosion of structures by muskeg waters, engineering characteristics of peat, etc., will be presented.

NAVAL WEATHER STATION

Weather is a major consideration when flying is involved, and when the aircraft carrier HMCS *Bonaventure* goes to sea the aircrews on board are kept "weather-wise" by a unique sea-going weather office. "Our main problem was not only short-range forecasting," explained Lieutenant-Commander Raymond J. Fichaud, of Montreal and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, who served as senior meteorological officer for two years in the *Bonaventure*. "We had to give a picture of developments over a 30-hour period, and at all times a five-day forecast for planning purposes."

To provide this service, the big ship's meteorologists use the latest forecasting equipment together with weather information received from shore stations and other ships at sea. This results in an operation similar to that found in weather offices at airports across Canada.

Lieutenant-Commander Fichaud, who has been on loan to the RCN from the Department of Transport, recently left the aircraft carrier for service in the joint RCN-RCAF meteorological office in Halifax. "There were difficulties in operating a weather office that is on the move," he said. "One of the main frustrations was atmospheric conditions that sometimes blocked radio signals providing weather reports from shore stations." He said operations in the northern latitudes are particularly noted for this problem.

In addition to reports received by *Bonaventure's* radio teletypes, radio-facsimile weather maps are periodically received to assist in providing an accurate forecast. When the ship is operating near shore transmitting stations, she can pick up "actuals", which are voice transmissions covering local weather conditions.

From the reports received, supplemented by the information gained on board the ship, the meteorological staff are able to provide the information required for the briefing of the aircrews.

Bonaventure's weather office not only provides her aircrews with up-to-date weather forecasts, it also supplies meteorological information to stations ashore. The staff make hourly surface observations and at least one upper atmospheric reading a day with a free-rising balloon. These reports are passed to radio stations ashore where the information is distributed internationally.

ANTIPODES TRADE MISSION

A Canadian trade mission to Australia and New Zealand will leave Vancouver on March 10 and arrive in Sydney on March 13. Members of the mission will visit Canberra and six leading commercial centres in Australia and three in New Zealand, returning to Canada on April 8.

The aims and objectives of the mission are four-fold, as follows:

- (a) To discuss with Australian and New Zealand business leaders the opportunities for strengthening commercial ties with Canada, to explore the market possibilities for Canadian products, and to provide a better understanding of Canada as a source of supply.
- (b) To assess the implications for Canada of the long-term growth of the Australian and New Zealand economies.
- (c) To observe industrial methods in Australia and New Zealand, in order that information concerning the special requirements of their markets may be obtained.
- (d) To return the visit of the Australian trade mission that toured Canada in 1960 and made an important contribution to the development of commercial relations between Canada and Australia.

REGIONAL PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes declined in seven of ten regional cities between the beginning of December 1961 and January 1962, were unchanged in two cities and increased 0.3 per cent in Saskatoon-Regina. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in both St. John's and Edmonton-Calgary to 0.5 per cent in Montreal and Ottawa.

Food indexes decreased in six cities, increased in one city and were unchanged in the remaining three. Shelter indexes were up in two cities, down

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