

It is expected that, during a period of years, accumulated ice information will make it possible for increased service to be rendered in this sphere by the department. As experience and knowledge are increased, so will the ability of the observers and forecasters to provide accurate information. With the developments of previous winters to look back upon, they will be able to forecast the probable ice developments under any given weather conditions, and enable shipping to plan its routes and activities accordingly.

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BRIDGE FOR BURMA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced recently that the Government of Canada and the Government of the Union of Burma had reached agreement concerning the allocation of a total of \$1,250,000 under Canada's Colombo Plan programme in Burma.

Under this agreement Canada will allocate \$900,000 to the construction of a bridge linking Rangoon with the satellite town of Thaketa, where new industries and housing are being built. This amount will be used to obtain materials and equipment in Canada, to engage the services of a Canadian engineering firm and to provide Canadian personnel to assist in the construction of the project. To cover the local costs of the project, the two governments have agreed to the allocation of counterpart funds in an amount equivalent to \$950,000. These counterpart funds arose from the sale of wheat provided by Canada to Burma under the Colombo Plan. They were set aside by Burma on the understanding that they would be used for agreed economic development purposes.

The remaining \$350,000 of the \$1,250,000 total allocation to Burma is being used for the provision of Canadian wheat and shipment has now commenced.

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SECURITIES TRADE

The trade in outstanding securities in January led to a sales balance of \$22,300,000, made up of \$18,800,000 from net sales of outstanding Canadian securities and \$3,500,000 from net sales of outstanding foreign securities. This balance is to be compared with an inflow of \$4,400,000 in December; it was the largest inflow from this category of transactions since August 1959. There were net sales of \$9,900,000 to the United States, \$6,400,000 to the United Kingdom, and \$6 million to other overseas countries.

Net sales of Government of Canada direct and guaranteed issues worth \$11,600,000 were a substantial factor in the sales balance, but other outstanding Canadian bonds and debentures were repurchased by Canadians in a net amount of \$1 million. While all areas mentioned were buyers of government issues, over-

seas countries other than the United States and the United Kingdom accounted for the largest part of these sales. Net sales of outstanding Canadian stocks in an amount of \$8,200,000 were also divided among the areas, with the larger part of the inflow, however, coming from the United States.

In addition, there were sales to non-residents in January of some \$45-million-worth of Canadian treasury bills. As maturities and repurchases totalled roughly the same, non-resident holdings of about \$120 million changed little. There was also a significant volume of sales to non-residents of commercial paper.

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CANADA-U.S. TV AGREEMENT

Planning the allocation of TV channels on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border will be made easier by a working arrangement just concluded with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

The allocation and use of TV channels within 250 miles of the international boundary are governed by the Canadian-U.S. Television Agreement of 1952.

That agreement is still in full force, but the new arrangement gives the Canadian Department of Transport and the FCC a common set of standards by which to determine if a proposed channel allocation is likely to be acceptable to both governments under the 1952 agreement.

Based essentially on the new working arrangement, the Department of Transport has also issued new rules governing the allocation of channels in Canada. Effective April 1, they are designed better to meet public needs for expanded TV coverage.

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NORTHERN PROSPECTING PERMITS

Twenty-seven prospecting permits for mineral exploration in the Northwest Territories have been issued under the new Canada Mining Regulations. In accordance with the new rules, applicants have made deposits totalling approximately \$400,000 as guarantees for exploration expenditures during 1961.

Mr. Dinsdale, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, states that permits are intended to encourage exploration in remote areas, using modern exploration techniques. Each permit carries exclusive exploratory rights for 3 years to an area of approximately 170,000 acres. The permit holder must make expenditures at the rate of 10 cents an acre for the first year, 20 cents an acre for the second, and 40 cents an acre for the third year. One quarter of the area must be dropped at the end of the first year and a second quarter by the end of the second year.

The Minister went on to say that the interests of individual prospectors are protected, since permits are granted only for remote areas that are not actively prospected at the present time.