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BUSY SUMMER FOR GEOGRAPHERS

Geographers from the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys are fanning out across Canada to start their 1963 field programme. Current projects cover land-use mapping, geomorphology and glaciology. Since the emphasis this year is on land-use mapping, five of the 10 survey groups from the Geographical Branch will study and map the present employment of the land. "A land-use map," says Dr. N.L. Nicholson, Branch Director, "not only presents a picture of the land as it is at the moment but takes into account physical, economic and historical factors. The aim of this work, carried out in co-operation with the provinces, is to make the optimum use of our land in a foreseeable space of time, and to have a yardstick from which change can be measured."

MAIN REGIONS TO BE MAPPED

In Eastern Canada geographers will be mapping Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula, the area of Fredericton, New Brunswick, and the New Brunswick-Quebec border areas, and, in Ontario, the shore of Lake Erie and Renfrew County. North-Central Saskatchewan is being mapped in a continuation of the 1962 programme for Western Canada. Renfrew County has been chosen as a test area

for the Agricultural Rural Development Act, and one of the first steps is to map the disposition of the land.

The data gathered on land use during the field season will be compiled on multicolored map sheets using scales of either one or four miles to the inch.

ARCTIC GLACIER STUDIES

The largest single field party is on Baffin Island, where 18 geographers are continuing glaciological studies of the Barnes ice cap and the surrounding terrain. This ice cap is approximately the size of Prince Edward Island and, from information obtained in previous research, appears to be in a state of recession.

Four other groups are in the field to make geomorphological studies dealing with the form of the earth, the distribution of land and water, and the evolutionary changes that are taking place. A group working in southwestern Saskatchewan is collaborating with the provincial Research Council; the other three are in the Northwest Territories, two on Baffin Island and one in the Mackenzie Delta.