

FOREST-FIRE FIGURES FALL

Forest-fire damage throughout Canada during May was much lower than in the same month a year earlier, Forestry Department estimates indicate. Some 50,000 acres were hit last month by 1,592 fires, compared with 119,000 acres damaged by 1,892 fires in May 1964. In April of this year, 267 fires damaged an estimated 4,000 acres.

The May 1965 estimates include 25 fires in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, involving some 510 acres, compared to 10 fires affecting two acres in the territories in May last year.

The seasonal total to the end of May 1965 is well below that of 1964 — an estimated 54,000 acres in 1,859 fires, against 139,000 acres in 2,439 fires for the same period last year.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT REVIEW

The Department of Labour has undertaken an extensive review of its organization, with particular reference to activities in the manpower field. The intention to have this review made was indicated by Labour Minister Allan J. MacEachen when he announced on March 31, in the House of Commons, the transfer of the National Employment Service to the Department of Labour.

Development of a well-knit and effective manpower organization is a major aim of the review, though it will also cover the organizational structure of the Department as a whole.

During recent years, numerous measures have been undertaken by the Government to develop a positive, dynamic employment and manpower programme. These measures have added substantially to the responsibilities of the Department of Labour, and have contributed to the need for a thorough review.

The transfer of the National Employment Service enables most of the essential elements of manpower policy at the federal level to be co-ordinated in the Department of Labour as recommended by the Gill Committee and by the Economic Council of Canada in its first annual report.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The review is scheduled for completion by October. Its broad terms of reference are as follows:

- to study the functions and organization of the National Employment Service and other branches of the Department directly engaged in activities relating to the development and use of manpower at departmental headquarters and at representative regional and local field offices;

- to examine the functions and organization of the branches of the Department in relation to that of the Department as a whole.

- to develop and recommend an organizational structure and division of responsibilities at all significant levels, including effective working relations, to meet the developing needs of the Department in the accomplishment of its objectives in manpower and other fields of endeavour.

FRENCH CIVIL TRAINEES TO OTTAWA

Six graduates of the Ecole nationale d'Administration of Paris (ENA) will visit Canada from August 7 to September 18. They will be guests of the Government of Canada from August 28 to September 18 and of the Province of Quebec from August 7 to 27.

In 1964, the Government of the French Republic offered to train a number of Canadian civil servants each year at the ENA. In the same year, two federal civil servants and eight from Quebec were chosen for a one-year period of instruction at the ENA. This year, ten other Canadian civil servants, selected from Ottawa and Quebec in the same proportion as in 1964, are undergoing a similar period of training.

PROGRAMME IN OTTAWA

This summer's visit will offer an opportunity to a few French graduates to become familiar with the theory and practice of the Canadian public service. Their programme in Ottawa will include lectures on political and administrative institutions in Canada as well as reports on the economic and social situation in Canada. They will also be shown local governmental projects and introduced to certain aspects of Canadian cultural life.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE BOOSTED

The Canadian Government, wishing to increase its cultural relations with foreign countries, has decided to increase to \$1 million the amount provided for the programme of cultural exchanges with French-speaking countries. This programme was launched in December 1963, when the sum of \$250,000 was appropriated. Its scholarship exchanges, art exhibitions and theatrical presentations have aroused considerable interest in the countries concerned and has met with great success during its first year of operation. The programme at present involves France, Belgium and Switzerland, and it is hoped that it will eventually include exchanges with other countries that are entirely or partially French-speaking.

TRAINING ON THE JOB

Almost 17 per cent of Canada's industrial establishments in four major groups reported some form of organized training for employees in the year ended May 31, 1963.

About 25 per cent of the firms employing 50 or more employees reported "in-service" training. The percentage rose to close to 100 per cent among the very large establishments.

These figures are among the findings of a survey conducted jointly by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics among the following four large industrial groups: manufacturing, public utilities, mining, and transportation-communication. Some 12,000 establishments reported, with more than 300,000 employees in the categories of skilled tradesmen, first-line supervisors, technicians and apprentices.