

**86 SURVEY PARTIES:** The Geological Survey of Canada is placing 86 parties in the field this year, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, Mr. George Prudham, has announced. All the provinces and the two territories will share in the programme. Last year 79 geological parties were assigned to field work.

Largest project to be undertaken this year is a reconnaissance survey in the central part of District of Keewatin, Northwest Territories, that will cover an area of approximately 60,000 square miles, all of it underlain by rocks of the Canadian Shield. Known as "Operation Baker" the work is a follow-up of a 1952 project known as "Operation Keewatin" in which a 57,000-square mile portion in the southern part of District of Keewatin was mapped in a reconnaissance survey, disclosing about 14,000 square miles of favourable prospecting ground. As in the 1952 project, use will be made of two helicopters in the 1954 operation. A fuel cache will be established in preparation for a similar project in 1955.

**HELICOPTERS**

Helicopters are to be tried out in two other projects this year. In the Coquitlam area in British Columbia, the Department, for the first time, will use a helicopter for geological traverses in mountainous terrain, and two parties will make joint use of a heli-

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**SALES RISE:** The unadjusted sales index for nine wholesale trades registered 352.5 for March, a sharp increase from 312.8 a month earlier and 1.8% above last year's March figure of 349.0. Higher sales in the grocery, fruit and vegetable, and drug trades outweighed reductions in the dry goods, tobacco and confectionery, auto parts and equipment, footwear, clothing and hardware lines in the 12 month comparison.

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The Bank of Canada announced that it has acquired property in Toronto on University Avenue between Queen and Richmons Streets and will erect a building on it in the near future.

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From 1901 to 1951, the number of women in the Canadian labour force increased from 237,900, to 1,164,300 and from 13.5 per cent of the total female population 14 years of age and over in 1901 to 23.6 per cent in 1951.

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copter for transportation in an investigation of the mineral resources in Cape Breton Island.

Four parties will carry out reconnaissance surveys in widely separated parts of the Arctic. Two of these will work on northern Baffin Island; another on Prince Patrick, and Eglinton islands and the western part of Melville Island, in the western Arctic, and the fourth on the northwest coast of Ellesmere Island, less than 600 miles from the Pole.

Nine of the parties will map and examine radioactive mineral areas in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec; six will be similarly engaged in iron ore areas in Quebec, Ontario and Labrador; four will work in coal areas in British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia; and 14 in metallic mineral areas in Northwest Territories, Yukon, British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Seven will map areas in British Columbia and Alberta of interest in the exploration for oil and natural gas.

Special projects will include a detailed study, in co-operation with the Dominion Observatory, of the peculiar circular formation of Mouchalagan and Manicouagan Lakes about 120 miles northwest of the port Seven Islands, Quebec; damsite investigations on the Columbia and South Saskatchewan Rivers; and continuation of geological investigations in connection with the St. Lawrence Seaway project.

**OVERSEAS AWARDS:** The Royal Society of Canada announced on May 21 the names of the 27 winners of Canadian Government Overseas Awards for the year 1954-55.

The awards consist of 13 Fellowships with a value of \$4,000 each and 14 Scholarships worth \$2,000 each, and are tenable this year in France and the Netherlands.

The Canadian Government Overseas Awards were initiated in 1952. Candidates are selected by the Royal Society of Canada and funds are derived from a parliamentary allocation of balances owing to the Canadian Government which are expendable in the countries concerned. These funds are administered by the Department of External Affairs.

Of the 27 awards for 1954-55, 22 are tenable in France and five in the Netherlands.

Six of this year's fellowships and four scholarships have been granted for study in the creative arts.

Seven of last year's scholarships have been renewed for a second year.