

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ESKIMOS

A new and unprecedented plan for the vocational training of Eskimos has been launched by the Department of Northern Affairs. Thirty Eskimos, all from the Western Arctic, are now at Leduc, Alberta, where they will follow a three-month course. Once the men are trained they will assume responsible jobs on the Distant Early Warning Line as members of the team manning Canada's first line of defence.

The Eskimos will be trained in the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment such as trucks, tractors, rotary snowplows, and bulldozers. They will learn how to repair both diesel and gasoline engines. Many Eskimos are mechanically inclined, and those selected for the course are men who show particular promise. A few have already operated heavy machinery, and all of them are looking forward to their training with enthusiasm. Since the Eskimos' native tongue is not English and some of the trainees are not proficient in the language, instruction in basic English will be an important part of the curriculum.

Selection of the Eskimo trainees was the job of Northern Service Officers of the Department of Northern Affairs, who live permanently in the Arctic. To adapt the curriculum to the

needs of the Eskimos, the course has been set by the Department's Vocational Training Co-ordinator. He and the NSO's are co-operating with the Eskimos' future employer on the DEW Line, the Federal Electric Corporation. Since they are urgently needed, the students will go directly to their jobs as soon as they graduate.

In arranging to accommodate and train the Eskimos, Northern Affairs officials were assisted by representatives of the Alberta Department of Education. Private industry is supplying the instructors and training equipment for the technical phase of the programme.

The present course is part of a long-term plan to prepare Eskimos for new employment opportunities in the North. The plan is of particular importance because game is becoming scarce in some districts, and many Eskimos must leave trapping and hunting for wage employment. Without vocational training they would be confined to unskilled jobs, and could not take full advantage of the new opportunities. Plans are under way for additional courses in Eastern and Western Canada to train 120 Eskimos--making a total of 150--within the next twelve months.

FISHERIES MEETINGS: Important fisheries meetings in Tokyo this month were attended by a number of Canadian, American and Japanese delegates. The meetings were held by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, which was formed by a tri-partite Treaty between Canada, Japan and the United States in 1953 for the conservation of stocks of fish on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The Treaty covers an ocean area of thirty-two million square miles. Approximately one-third of the world's supply of fish is taken in the area by the nations signatory to the tri-partite Treaty and other bordering nations, including China and the U.S.S.R.

During 1955 and 1956 the Commission has undertaken a research programme of record size in the area extending northward from the latitude of San Francisco to near the Bering Strait at the entrance to the Arctic Ocean and across to the Asiatic shores. Twenty ocean-going research vessels occupied stations throughout this vast and stormy expanse in 1956. Principle subject of research at present is a determination of whether or not salmon from Asian streams mingle in the sea with salmon from the streams of North America. If the Commission finds that salmon from the two continents mix on common feeding grounds in mid-ocean it must draw dividing lines based on scientific research which will most equitably divide the stocks.

The Tokyo meetings were divided into two

series. During the week which began March 11 representatives of the three countries discussed the status of the salmon, herring and halibut fisheries along the Pacific coast of Alaska, British Columbia and the United States. Japan has agreed in the Treaty to abstain from fishing these stocks, on the condition that the United States and Canada maintain a maximum sustainable annual harvest from them, coupled with a full research programme and adequate enforcement of conservation measures. The committee studied reports dealing with this complex and important question and advised the Commission on the need for further studies. Beginning in 1958 the Commission must decide annually if stocks of fish protected under the abstention clause of the Treaty continue to qualify, or if the abstention should be lifted.

During the week of March 18, the Commission's Committee on Biology and Research met to plan and co-ordinate details of the 1957 research programme. Oceanographic research vessels connected with this programme are already departing for North Pacific waters. They will be followed by vessels studying distribution of salmon throughout their range and later by other vessels engaged in mid-ocean tagging of salmon, for later recovery in their home areas.

Canada's delegation was led by George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Chairman of the Commission.