

### CANADIAN TRADE FAIRS IN WEST INDIES

Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has announced that Canadian Trade Fairs will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from January 16-25, and in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, from February 20-March 1. The purpose of these presentations is to provide prospective purchasers in the West Indies with a better understanding of products available in Canada.

As it is proposed that the overall costs should be shared by the individual exhibitors and the Canadian Government, a canvass of firms interested in the West Indies market was undertaken by this department during the past four months. Much interest in a project of this character has been indicated and it was decided to proceed with the organization of trade fairs in the two largest centres of population.

Increasing interest in Canada as a source of supply has been noted in the West Indies, and more particularly since federation. The offer by Canada of a vessel to promote inter-island traffic is appreciated, and the proposal to organize trade fairs in Kingston and Port-of-Spain has been welcomed.

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### ICE FORECASTS

Canada's first ice-forecasting service, providing information on ice conditions in Canadian and adjacent waters, went into operation this spring. The service is being operated this year by the Royal Canadian Navy on behalf of the Department of Transport, which will take it over in 1959.

The service is a part of a mutual arrangement between Canada and the United States for provision of information on ice-infested areas around the coast of North America, for the benefit of commercial and government shipping.

The areas covered by the RCN ice forecasts include the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait and the northern coast of continental Canada.

Ice forecasts for the Central and Eastern Arctic and for the shipping lanes along the east coast to Baffin Bay have been provided in the past by the United States Navy's Hydrographic Office. This year the Hydrographic Office will provide the usual full support to shipping along the east coast north to Baffin Bay and five and 30-day forecasts for the Eastern Arctic area. Other ice advisories and ice forecasts will be provided by Canada.

The new Sea Ice Central, as it is called, is located at the RCN Air Station, Shearwater, N.S., and is operated by RCN personnel who have had previous practical experience with sea ice and taken special training courses with the U.S. Hydrographic Office. The Department of Transport has organized an extensive

Although no international trade fairs are held in the West Indies at present, the promotional technique already familiar to Canadian firms that have participated in displays arranged by this department in Europe, Latin America, South Africa and Japan will be followed. It is expected that, in the West Indies, even wider participation by the agents of Canadian firms will be developed, and that many of these agents will assume responsibility for manning the individual stands.

Through the co-operation of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Canadian Exporters' Association, information concerning this proposal has been conveyed to a large number of firms in this country. Commodity Officers in the department have also discussed the plan with the export managers and other officials of companies whose interests they promote. Now that a decision has been taken to proceed with this project, it will be possible to provide more specific information. Interested firms will also be able to plan their respective exhibits, and to discuss the most effective form of presentation with their agents in the West Indies.

system of surface and aerial ice observations, which are relayed to the Ice Central at Shearwater for use in issuing ice bulletins and ice forecasts. Both civilian and Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft will be used in the aerial ice surveys.

By midsummer of this year, three field forecast stations will be set up at Churchill, Cambridge and Frobisher in the north. While the Shearwater Ice Central will be manned the year round, these stations will be manned, two at a time, during the summer months only.

The Shearwater unit will provide basic ice information to the three northern stations, which will be equipped with radio facsimile recorders.

The service is now providing forecasts for the Gulf of St. Lawrence area, to assist shipping in both the river and the gulf. There will also be a build-up of ice information which may assist in extending the shipping season in the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Forecasts covering the Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait area will assist shipping operating to and from Churchill and the service will gather data for further knowledge of shipping seasons in the Ungava and other areas.

Ice information, both observed and forecast, along the northern coast of continental Canada will be used largely by shipping employed in the sea re-supply of DEW Line sites.

The service will also be used by shipping carrying out re-supply of joining Arctic weather stations.