

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

"Many months of intense research and planning will be needed to prepare for this conference", said Resources Minister Hamilton recently, in announcing the secretariat appointed to prepare for the National Conservation Conference. "I am very pleased that we have been able to obtain the services of highly qualified resource economists to prepare for this conference on the conservation and management of, and research into, the renewable resources of Canada."

Mr. Hamilton said the secretariat would work under the direction of a steering committee composed of federal and provincial cabinet ministers.

Decision to proceed with plans for a National Conservation Conference was made at a meeting of provincial and federal Cabinet Ministers at Ottawa in November 1958. The Conference will examine thoroughly the status of the conservation, research and management of the renewable resources and consider ways through which natural resources can be used more wisely and effectively for the greatest long-term benefit to the Canadian people.

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ARCTIC PILOT PUBLICATION

Centuries of Arctic experience and bitterly-gained knowledge of the north, culled from the explorers and scientific expeditions of many nations, have been gathered into a set of three volumes: *The Pilot of Arctic Canada*, the first of which has just been published.

The Pilot is being produced by the Canadian Hydrographic Service of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys as a guide and book of instruction for mariners whose business takes them into Canada's Arctic waters. It amplifies and enlarges on the information provided by the nautical chart. Within its covers are contained descriptions of coasts, islands, sounds and channels; ice movements, shoals, weather conditions and dangers; known facts and suspected hazards--vital to the safety of ships in high latitudes.

Commenting on the first volume of the new Arctic Pilot, Mines Minister Paul Comtois said that, though produced primarily to assist the northern navigator, the books will be of great interest to others fascinated by the Arctic. They deal in plain facts, knowledge and truth; yet, far from being prosaic, they are alive with romance of the Arctic.

The three volumes will cover the whole of the Canadian Arctic--about one third of Canada's total area. Volume I, containing general information on the Canadian Arctic as a whole, will shortly be followed by Volume II, which will give detailed descriptions of the coasts and adjacent sea areas of the Eastern Arctic, and then by Volume III, which will deal with the Western Arctic.

Some of the features of general interest in the first volume are: a wind-chill chart that illustrates cooling units on exposed flesh by wind speed and temperature; mean temperature charts for various months of the year; a gazetteer of place names together with positions in latitude and longitude; and a history of exploration in the Canadian Arctic. The history, after mention of the Icelandic mariners of the eleventh century, is given in considerable detail from the year 1576. Other information deals with magnetic storms and their effects; the preparation of a ship for navigation through ice; and the movements and detection of icebergs together with their characteristics.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

While Canada's trade picture is responding along traditional lines to the general business recovery, there have been marked changes in the relative importance of individual exports, according to the Bank of Montreal's Business Review for October.

The total value of Canadian exports remained almost unchanged in the first eight months of this year, compared with the same period of 1958. For, although there were declines in shipments of cattle, wheat, aircraft and some minerals, these were offset by larger sales of forest products, farm machinery and some other minerals.

"There have also been significant shifts in the relative importance of Canada's external markets," the Review adds.

"Exports to the United States, which began to rise late last year, have been ten per cent higher . . . while . . . exports to the United Kingdom have declined by four per cent, to other European countries by 25 per cent and to Latin America by nine per cent.

"Thus, the United States, long Canada's principal market, has, at latest report, this year been taking an even larger proportion of our exports - 62 per cent instead of 57 per cent."

However, the Review adds, while the whole export picture shows little change (an increase of one per cent during the eight-month period), the nation's imports have been rising. In the eight months to the end of August, Canadian imports totalled 11 per cent more than in the same period of 1958, with the increases fairly widely distributed between industrial and consumer goods.

Thus the pattern has emerged of reduced Canadian exports to most countries except the U.S., with substantially larger imports from all areas. "This has led", the Bank reports "to considerably altered trade balances - a larger deficit with the U.S., a markedly reduced surplus with the United Kingdom and the rest of the Commonwealth, and a sharp reversal