

CANADIAN DELEGATE TO UNESCO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, recently announced the appointment of Mr. L.V.J. Roy as the first Canadian permanent delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

The appointment will facilitate liaison and consultation between UNESCO and the Canadian Government and will provide assistance to the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, which was set up under the auspices of the Canada Council in 1957.

RESEARCH IN POLAR BASIN

Mines and Technical Surveys Minister Comtois has announced the arrival at Isachsen, on northern Ellef Ringnes Island, of the advance party of the 55-man scientific expedition that will this year begin a broad programme of research on Canada's continental shelf on the rim of the Polar basin.

The remaining members of the 1960 expedition, which comprises oceanographers, hydrographers, topographers, geologists, geophysicists, geographers, and fisheries and wild-life experts, are expected to arrive in Isachsen in a few days.

In what is known as the Polar Continental Shelf Project, the expedition is the first of many that will make a closely-integrated study of Canada's polar continental shelf and its northern archipelago and adjacent waters. Co-ordinator of the project is Dr. Ernest Frederick Roots.

Canada knows little about its polar regions. Its Arctic shelf, which has not as yet been accurately charted, is about 1,500 miles long and is believed to extend from 100 to 200 miles into the Arctic Ocean.

The first group to arrive in the basin consisted of some 30 scientists and supporting personnel. They will establish base camp at Isachsen and set up a Decca navigating chain from which to establish position (latitude and longitude). With the arrival of the remainder of the group, field work in the form of detailed studies of the physical characteristics of the waters of the shelf and of the topography and composition of its floor and of the adjacent islands and straits will get under way.

This year the expedition will cover an area extending 250 to 300 miles out onto the ice of the shelf from a base line, established by an advance reconnaissance party in 1959, that extends from Meighen Island to Borden Island. In their systematic study of the shelf, the scientists will carry out a number of scientific tests and investigations at holes blasted through the ice in various places. They will work in a sort of grid, 30 miles to the side.

The oceanographers and hydrographers will study and map the topography of the ocean floor, and will measure the movements, temperature and chemical properties of the water at various depths.

Topographers will run traverses from which the positions of the various parties will be fixed. They will also run a reconnaissance traverse southwest down the archipelago to Banks Island and from there to Winter Harbour on Melville Island. Observations will be made along this traverse.

The geologists will study the composition of the ocean floor, as well as the geology of the emerged coast, and will correlate the geology of the shelf with that of the coast to ascertain whether the shelf is of the same or different structure. Their investigations will include geochemical studies of bottom materials.

Geophysicists will study structures beneath the floor, and geographers will investigate the nature, distribution, and movement of the polar mass of ice. They will also study conditions producing certain soil structures and patterns, and such phenomena as permafrost.

The fisheries officers will study fish and sea-mammal life and the shelf's potential for such life, while the wild-life experts, in the persons of a botanist and an entomologist, will investigate plant and insect life in the region.

Up until the end of April, the expedition will work in expected temperatures of around -40°F. The best weather for field work in the Polar basin usually occurs in the three-month period between mid-March and mid-June. Break-up in June brings surface puddling on the ice, and fog.

After the break-up in June, the parties will concentrate on adjacent straits in the archipelago. Most members of the expedition will remain in the area until the end of August and all will be out by the end of September.

SEAWAY PLEASURE CRUISING

Pleasure craft 20 feet in length and over, and two tons in weight and greater, may navigate the St. Lawrence Seaway when they have been pre-cleared and are proceeding in accordance with regulations. Smaller pleasure craft will be accepted for passage through the Iroquois, Snell and Eisenhower locks after they too have been pre-cleared.

Tolls of \$2.00 a lock are payable by all pleasure craft at all Seaway canals except at the Lachine, Cornwall and the Sault Canals where transit is free. Toll tickets are available from many sources, including yacht clubs and pleasure-craft organizations.

These and other provisions for the passage of pleasure craft on the St. Lawrence Seaway are set forth in Circular No. 12 and other