

## AWARDS TO WEATHER WATCHERS

Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan, director of the Department of Transport's meteorological branch, recently announced that the masters and officers of 20 ships trading into Canada had received a total of 40 awards for excellence in their voluntary work of making weather reports during their voyages on the high seas, in Canadian coastal waters, and on the Great Lakes.

The available knowledge of weather conditions over the vast expanses of the world's oceans is dependent almost entirely on the reports received from merchant ships. Out of a world total of about 4,000, Canada has 94 ships that report weather. In 1962 Canadian ships made approximately 30,000 reports. Some vessels, sailing from East and West Coast ports, travelled to the Far East, Australia, South Africa and Britain. There are about 48 ships reporting in Eastern coastal waters and the Canadian Arctic, 23 ships on the Great Lakes, and 23 ships on the Pacific Ocean.

### DAILY ROUTINE

Four times a day, at fixed hours, ships' officers take time out from their regular duties to record the pressure, temperature, wind, humidity, clouds, visibility, and several other aspects of the weather at the time. They transcribe all this information into a code known the world over and hand it to the ship's radio officer, who transmits it to the nearest coast radio station, whence it is relayed to the meteorological service concerned. This message, along with hundreds of others, is used immediately by the weathermen to prepare forecasts for mariners, airmen, the general public, and many other agencies.

Dr. McTaggart-Cowan indicated that, by tradition, ships' officers received no monetary remuneration for weather-observing duties. However, in return they receive from the meteorological branch weather advice in the form of forecasts, bulletins and maps by radio and facsimile, which are based on the reports they themselves have made only a few hours earlier.

This year's awards, which are the fifteenth of an annual series, take the form of inscribed copies of "Book of Canada" edited by William Toye, "Northwest by Sea" by Ernest S. Dodge, and "Whalers Eye" by Christopher Ash. They represent a small, tangible token of the Department's appreciation for the voluntary work done on its behalf.

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## NATIONAL CARGO HANDLING BODY

Canadian members of the International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association met in Montreal on July 24 to form a Canadian national committee of the Association. The Association (ICHCA) is a world-wide, non-profit, non-political and technical organization devoted to finding ways and means of handling cargo more efficiently so that time and costs can be reduced to a minimum. With headquarters in London, England, it has members in 63 countries and national committees in ten.

To facilitate the formation of the new Canadian committee, a *pro tem* slate of officers was elected.

As membership is expected to increase, a general meeting will convene early in 1964, at which time a general election will be held and special committees formed. The officers elected *pro tem* were: President, E.J. Alton, National Harbours Board, Ottawa; Vice President, D.W. Francis, Canadian Pacific Railway Company, Montreal; and Secretary-Treasurer, N.W. Bowen, National Harbours Board, Ottawa.

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## FRANCE-CANADA FILM PACT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on August 3 that an agreement would be signed early in September between the Governments of France and Canada to facilitate the co-production of films in the two countries. The agreement negotiated in Paris earlier this year has subsequently received the formal approval of both Governments.

Under the terms of the agreement, the co-production of feature films by French and Canadian filmmakers, with creative personnel and finance coming from both countries, will be encouraged. Such arrangements are common in Europe and many important European film productions are co-produced under similar agreements between major film-producing countries there. Under the present agreement, which will be signed in September, films co-produced by Canadian and French film-makers, the lesser share not being lower than 30 per cent, will be considered both French and Canadian and thus able to qualify for the advantages, financial and other, which may exist in either country. The agreement sets out the terms under which such co-productions can be undertaken and the receipts shared.

Le Centre National de la Cinématographie Française will represent the Government of France and the National Film Board, the Government of Canada, in the administration of the agreement.

It is expected that the conclusion of the agreement will encourage the production of more feature films in Canada and aid in their distribution abroad.

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## CANADIAN FOOD FOR GREECE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced that the Canadian Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Antonio Barrette, and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, His Excellency Panaghiotis Pipinelis, had formally exchanged notes constituting an agreement covering a Canadian gift to Greece of \$1-million worth of food products. The offer of the gift by Canada and its acceptance by Greece followed a decision taken by the ministerial meeting of NATO on December 15, 1962, regarding contributions to Greece of collective assistance for her defensive efforts.

According to the notes exchanged, the gift will consist of approximately 6,000,000 pounds of canned luncheon meat and a quantity of dried skim milk. These will be made available at an Eastern Canadian port in three equal lots during the remainder of 1963.