

### MARINE SAFETY MEETINGS

The Department of Transport, continuing its series of talks with the marine industry on matters relating to safety of navigation, held two meetings in Vancouver on February 7 and 8.

The first meeting, under the chairmanship of Gordon W. Stead, Assistant Deputy Minister, Marine, dealt with the training and certification of seamen. Safety criteria in the manning of ships were discussed the next day.

#### AMONG THOSE PRESENT

Senior officials of the Department of Transport were on hand for these discussions, as well as a representative from the technical and vocational training branch of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Representatives of the West Coast marine industry included members of the Fisheries Association of British Columbia, the Vancouver Merchants' Exchange, the British Columbia Towboat Owners' Association, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, Local 400, the Fishing Vessel Owners' Association of British Columbia, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union, the Association of Marine Underwriters of British Columbia, the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, the Seafarers' International Union of Canada and the Fishermen's Co-operative Federation.

Similar meetings dealing with these subjects were held in Montreal over the past year with representatives of the eastern marine industry.

The general objective of these studies is to achieve and maintain a state of general efficiency in the management and safe conduct of ships at sea

and in port, so that all phases of operation are conducted with security and dispatch.

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### HIGH PRICE OF FOREST FIRES

In 1965, forest fires cost Canada over \$14.6 million.

Data on forest-fire losses, tabulated by the Forest Fire Research Institute, Department of Forestry and Rural Development, indicate that the 1965 figure for total losses comprised \$8.3 million in damage and another \$6.3 million in actual fire-fighting costs.

Losses in the ten years prior to 1965 averaged about \$20 million a year. The acreage burned in 1965 was also substantially less than the ten-year average - half a million acres compared to an annual average of 2.5 million acres from 1955 to 1964.

The Forest Fire Research Institute's summary also records a total of 7,200 fires in 1965. Five thousand six hundred were listed as "man-caused", with over 1,600 from recreation and 389 from woods operations. Lightning started the remaining 1,600 forest fires.

British Columbia sustained the greatest losses in 1965, some \$8.3 million. Forest fires cost Alberta \$1.9 million, Quebec and Ontario about \$1.2 million each, and New Brunswick about \$1 million.

There were more fires during May and July than in any other months in 1965, about 1,700 each, but losses were far more extensive during July.

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