

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS DISBANDED

It was announced recently by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Paul Hellyer, that the Ground Observer Corps would shortly be disbanded. This decision had been prompted, the Minister said, by "the proven effectiveness of operational and control facilities operated by the North American Air Defence Command", which has so altered the continental defence situation that the GOC was no longer "contributing significantly" to the air-defence system.

At the time of the announcement, the Ground Observer Corps had already shrunk in numbers to 1,223- 1,200 unpaid civilian volunteers and 20 members of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The civilian members were manning some 400 observation posts north of the 55th Parallel, which were under the control of the RCAF stations at St. Hubert (Quebec), Winnipeg (Manitoba), and Edmonton (Alberta). In 1960, some 6,000 observation posts located south of the 55th Parallel, manned by 35,000 civilians, had been discontinued. The United States had been disbanded equivalent of the Ground Observer Corps in 1959.

"The contributions made to our defence by the members of the Ground Observer Corps have been significant," Mr. Hellyer said. "Their unselfish devotion of time and energy to this task is sincerely appreciated by the Government of Canada and the agencies charged with the responsibility for North American defence."

CZECH-CANADIAN WHEAT PACT

It was announced on October 29, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, that he had signed on behalf of the Canadian Government a long-term wheat agreement with Czechoslovakia. Mr. J. Poula, Czechoslovak Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, signed for the Government of Czechoslovakia.

The agreement is for five years, during which time Czechoslovakia will purchase, and Canada will supply, 1.2 million metric tons of Canadian wheat (about 44 million bushels) for shipment in the following quantities: in the first year of the agreement, 350,000 metric tons; in the second year, between 300,000 and 400,000 tons; in the third, fourth, and fifth years, a combined total of between 450,000 and 550,000 metric tons, with the proviso that the quantity in each of these years shall not be less than 120,000 tons.

The Canadian Wheat Board and the Czech agency Koospol have concluded the first sales contract under these arrangements, which provides for the shipment of 120,000 metric tons of wheat between March and June 1964.

Purchases under this agreement will be facilitated by the extension of credit arrangements under the Export Credits Insurance Act, providing for payment over three years.

FAIR-EMPLOYMENT MANUAL

The Department of Labour recently announced the publication of a new booklet on fair-employment practices. Entitled "Protection Under Law Against Employment Discrimination", it brings together for the first time information on all federal and provincial fair-employment laws in Canada and on other acts and regulations containing fair-employment provisions.

Canadians can seek protection against discrimination in a variety of ways. The booklet sets forth these sources of protection, which vary depending on the type of employment, the province concerned and other circumstances.

OPERATION OF LAWS DESCRIBED

The provisions of each federal and provincial fair-employment law are examined. The way in which other laws and regulations can protect Canadians against discrimination is explored, as, for instance, when they use employment services, apply for technical and vocational training, or seek rehabilitation services for the disabled. The booklet also outlines the protection contained in federal supply contracts.

In addition, it covers fair-accommodation and other anti-discrimination laws. It contains sections on the efforts of governments, unions and other organizations to combat prejudice through education and on the programmes of international bodies working to reduce discrimination and to promote human rights.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TRAFFIC

Cumulative cargo traffic figures to the end of September for the Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the St. Lawrence Seaway show an increase of 19.8 per cent and for the Welland Canal an increase of 13.4 per cent over last year, according to preliminary statistics issued by the Canadian and United States Seaway entities.

Total traffic so far this year exceeds 21,500,000 tons on the St. Lawrence and 28,800,000 tons on the Welland. Upbound and downbound traffic showed an increase of 22.1 per cent and 17.8 per cent respectively on the former section and 18.1 per cent and 11.0 per cent respectively on the latter. Cargo traffic during the month of September increased 13.5 per cent on the Montreal-Lake Ontario section and 17.3 per cent on the Welland Canal.

Both bulk-cargo and general-cargo categories on both Seaway sections showed gains this September over the same month in 1962. Total traffic for September was 3,929,615 tons between Montreal and Lake Ontario and 5,275,482 tons on the Welland Canal.

Vessel transits of the Montreal-Lake Ontario section to the end of September this year were 4,517, 91 fewer than for the same period in 1962. On the Welland Canal, transits were up 154 to 5,528.