

MONUMENT TO MARITIME ICEBOATS

An unusual federal monument to the iceboat service between Cape Traverse, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick, was unveiled recently at Cape Traverse.

The monument, a full-scale pine and oak copy of a turn-of-the-century iceboat, is 19 feet long and over five feet wide. Sheltered by a wall bearing the commemorative plaque and a protective roof, it represents what is believed to be the last remaining iceboat from the original service — now displayed at Fort Amherst National Historic Park, P.E.I. The monument was commissioned by the National Historic Sites Service of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

For the 90 winters between 1827 and 1917 the small wooden iceboats, their hulls sheathed in tin and their double keels fitted with iron runners, carried mail and passengers under sail across the nine often treacherous miles of Northumberland Strait.

Until the establishment of the Railway Ferry Service in 1916, the Capes Iceboat Service provided the quickest, most reliable, and often the only means of winter communication between Prince Edward Island and mainland New Brunswick.

Travel through the ice-bound waters was at first attempted by birchbark canoe. In 1827, trips were begun in the flat-bottomed dory with runners called the "iceboat". These boats, equipped with sails, could be rowed through open channels or dragged on their runners over ice. A first-class passenger might remain seated for the crossing, but travelling second class meant helping the crew.

The boats were exposed to sudden storms and passengers occasionally faced danger and loss of life. Even after the advent of ice-breaking steamers in the late nineteenth century, the iceboats were maintained until 1917 as an auxiliary service.

CANADA COUNCIL REPORT

A new plan to promote public awareness of the Canadian heritage was revealed in the Canada Council's thirteenth annual report, which was released recently. Under the new program, the Council plans to extend its assistance to the humanities and social sciences to include a large variety of work on Canadian topics intended for a general public, and to make reliable Canadian reference material available to educators. The program will be launched early in 1971 under the working title "Canadian Horizons".

The Council also revealed that it had helped eight arts organizations to reach new audiences through its Diffusion of the Arts Program, launched late in 1969. Among the experimental projects supported were a neighbourhood arts centre in Vancouver, concerts at churches in Montreal and at a shopping centre in Winnipeg, and a ballet performance for young people in Toronto.

The report lists all grants made by the Council during 1969-70, shows comparative figures for previous years, and gives the basic reasoning behind Council support of the arts, humanities and social sciences.

TAXATION COMMENTS

The report contains the Council's comments on the Federal Government's White Paper on Taxation. Among other things, the Council suggests that the Government should include encouragement of the arts among its uses of tax legislation as an incentive.

A feature of the report is a detailed description of the screening system used to assess requests for Council money from the humanities and social sciences. Before the Government-appointed Council makes its decisions, it calls on the advice of a great number of outside specialists. For research grants alone the Council has sought the opinion of more than 6,000 research specialists over the past three years.

The Council spent \$30 million in 1969-70, compared to \$27.3 million the year before and \$20 million the year before that. Its budget for the current year is \$32.5 million. In 1969-70, \$18.8 million went to the humanities and social sciences and \$9.7 million to the arts. The Council also finances the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and administers a program of cultural exchanges for the Government of Canada.

NEW RULES FOR U.S. AFFILIATES

Amendments to the Canada Corporations Act recently given royal assent were described by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Ron Basford as an important step in understanding the problems of foreign ownership in Canada. The amendments would require, for the first time, disclosure of financial statements by large private United States subsidiaries incorporated under federal law.

Mr. Basford stressed the usefulness of the economic data that this measure would make available to the public. "Government, citizens, economists, would-be investors and creditors will all benefit by being able to see how large pools of private capital are deployed," he declared. "But there is still an important gap. Since the new disclosure laws apply only to federally-incorporated companies, we will still be in the dark about a large number of private companies which operate under provincial laws of incorporation."

"Unless the provinces follow our lead, we will be forced to consider other means of achieving uniform disclosure by all companies of economic significance," Mr. Basford added. "Provisions have been made to prevent the new laws from operating to the disadvantage of a federal company which must compete with a provincial company which need not disclose its financial statements."