

such as, in the case of Nova Scotia, the Standing Committee of the Fish Packers Association, have also been brought into a similar scheme.

"At the Halifax Centre, a special Marine Recognition Data and Information Centre has been set up, to ensure that the right ship for the job is dispatched to a particular incident, and that air searches are conducted by pilots trained to recognize the object of the search. The Department has recently completed a special handbook, which should be of great help to every boat-owner, both those who might be involved as rescuers, and those who some day might be the object of a search. Arrangements for publication of this pamphlet are going forward now.

METHODS OF LOCATION

"As part of this latter programme on the East Coast, the Department has developed a grid system to enable a boat-owner readily to identify his location for rescue purposes, without revealing too precisely his fishing grounds to his competitors. We have also developed an inexpensive combined visual distress-signal and radar-reflector, since it has been shown that small vessels could often have been more readily located if they had carried such a signal.

"While present communications work well on this Coast, we intend to look further into the possibility of co-ordinating the use of available radar, and studies are going forward, particularly on the West Coast with its more difficult topography, to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to cover blank spots in radio-telephone coverage.

"It is intended that a study shall be made of training programmes and the provision of suitable equipment for government ships, so as to enable them to be more effective in the particular field of marine rescue. This is a programme that necessarily takes some time, but the contribution that can be made by it can be very significant when you remember that all the government departments together, apart from the Navy, have fleets totalling some 50 vessels stationed in the Atlantic region, 40 vessels in the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes, and 65 on the West Coast.

PRIVATE CO-OPERATION NEEDED

"Even with this impressive fleet, totalling over 150 vessels, our government ships have special duties which determine their position at any time, and some of these duties take them out of their usual regions altogether. We must, therefore, have, and I know we are getting, the full co-operation of private owners to assist in this work. What is needed is leadership to bring the great fleet of publicly and privately-owned vessels operating in Canadian waters into a state of coherence and readiness to meet marine disasters. This leadership the Government proposes to give

through the agency of the Canadian Marine Service, the newly-adopted name for the ships of the Department of Transport. Our Marine Co-ordinators will be key men in this continuing development.

"For some months now the Meteorological Branch of my Department has been carrying on scientific research into the use of radar in weather analysis and forecasting. As a result of this, I now plan to recommend to the Government the establishment of a general weather-radar programme. If this is approved, the first major installation for this purpose will take place in Halifax next year. If this installation lives up to expectations, I intend to recommend its extension across Canada, and this will give added protection to mariners on both coasts, and on the Great Lakes.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

"You will note that this proposal implies a greater emphasis on the prevention of accidents. Along the same lines, my Department has recently been authorized to construct six patrol cutters, commencing next year, for the purpose of enforcing and encouraging better safety practices among our coastal fleets, and to be available for rescue work among small craft in areas where these are concentrated. Two of these cutters will be based on the East Coast, two on the West, and two in the Great Lakes region. They will be designed to suit local circumstances, and, if they prove successful, more of these vessels will be recommended to the Government.

"With these measures, and others that our Marine Co-ordinators will continue to bring forward as they become more familiar with your problems, and as the need arises, I feel sure we are now developing adequate means to carry out the responsibilities that the Government has assumed in marine rescue.

"Over the past year, the directing staff at headquarters has been re-organized to include men with actual sea experience. These men will press forward with the necessary improvements.

"What I have said today will give you an indication that the Government takes its responsibilities seriously, and will continue to work for the protection of those who use our seas and inland waters for their livelihood or pleasure."

GIANT AIR BATTLE RECALLED

One of the largest bodies of RCAF personnel ever to parade in Ottawa assembled on Parliament Hill on September 18 to join in the national observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain in honour of the famous "few" who fought and died in the air to save Britain in the dark days of 1940.

The parade consisted of four Air Force bands and more than 1400 members of the RCAF and RCAF Association. The salute was taken by