

rience far antedates the aircraft era. He has gone up into the north by icebreaker, schooner, York boat, and canoe. Distances that once took him months to travel alone on foot, aircraft now covers in a matter of days.

The Dominion Observatory is the official custodian of the North Magnetic Pole. As such it has set up a network of magnetic stations throughout the Canadian Arctic. In 1922 Madill extended this as far as Nueltin Lake; in 1928 to Hudson Strait; in 1934 as far north as Ellesmere Island and in 1937 to Baker Lake and Repulse Bay. Since 1943 it has added more than 200 observation points north of latitude 60.

"The results which Serson and Clark brought back, with the aid of the RCAF," states Dr. C. S. Beals, Dominion Astronomer, "make possible a great advance in magnetic knowledge. It is a subject which is never closed; the survey goes on continuously and we shall continue to push our observations into still more remote regions of the Canadian Arctic. Those who think that the risk and adventure of Arctic exploration went out with the discovery of the North Pole are badly out of touch with what is going on in the north today. This is a job for youth and for the best brains and physique that youth can bring to it. Serson and Clark well typify that rising generation of level-headed, skilled and adventurous young scientists of whom Canada may well be proud." (See map on page 4)

**JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS:** J. H. MacQuarrie, K.C., Attorney General of the province of Nova Scotia, has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of the province to fill a vacancy left in the death of Justice John S. Smiley. Justice Minister Ilsley announces.

Mr. Ilsley also announced these other judicial appointments:

In Nova Scotia, Vincent J. Pottier, K.C. of Yarmouth, to be a judge of the County Court of Halifax, in place of R. H. Murray, retired.

In Manitoba, A. K. Dysart, K.C. of the Court of King's Bench, to be a judge of the Court of Appeal, to fill the vacancy left by W. H. Trueman.

In Manitoba, A. C. Campbell, K.C. of Winnipeg, to fill the vacancy in the Court of King's Bench left by Dysart's promotion.

In British Columbia, Norman W. Whittaker, K.C. speaker of the B.C. Legislature, and H. S. Woods, K.C. police magistrate of Vancouver, to be judges of the Supreme Court in place of Andrew M. Harper, retired, and fill the new judgeship provided at the last session of Parliament.

In Quebec, Hector Perrier, K.C., to be a judge of the Superior Court of Montreal, in place of Mr. Justice Forrest.

**TOYS FOR U.K. AND EUROPE:** Upward of 2500 rocking horses, carts, trains, animals, motor cars and other toys, now being turned out in regimental hobby shops across the Dominion, by

Canadian soldiers in their spare time, are soon to be collected for shipping to the U.K. and the Continent where they will be distributed in time for Christmas amongst needy children.

The scheme, sponsored by the Children's Friendship and Gifts Association, is the result of a visit to Canada last year of Mrs. J. R. Eden, Honorary Director of the Children's World Community Chest. Mrs. Eden, while in Ottawa, conferred with both Lt. Gen. Charles Foulkes, Chief of the General Staff, and Maj. Gen. E. G. Weeks, Adjutant General, who gave enthusiastic support to the idea of the Army making toys for needy children during off duty hours.

**APPOINTED MILITARY ATTACHE:** Colonel Dollard Ménard, DSO, of Quebec, has been appointed Canadian Military Attaché at the Canadian Embassy in Paris, France, the Minister of National Defence, announces.

Recently Col. Ménard has been attending a senior staff course at the French Ecole de Guerre in Paris.

Officer commanding Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal in the Dieppe operation on August 19, 1942, Col. Ménard was seriously wounded. Later he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Invalided home to Canada, Col. Ménard later commanded the Régiment de Hull in the Hiska expedition in 1943. Subsequently he commanded an Advanced Infantry Training Centre, and, after the end of the war, was appointed Director of Infantry at Army Headquarters, Ottawa.

## ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

**BOARD TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier has appointed a Board of Engineers to review recommendations of the 1926 Board of Engineers for the construction of the Lachine section of the St. Lawrence Waterway "having in mind the schemes presently proposed for the improvement of the upper section of the River". The new Board of Engineers consists of the following:-

R. A. C. Henry,  
Chairman of the Air Transport Board,  
Ottawa;

Dr. Arthur Surveyer,  
Consulting Engineer, Montreal;

Dr. T. H. Hogg,  
Consulting Engineer, Toronto.

To this Board will also be added two officials of the Department of Transport:-

Guy Lindsay,  
Chief of the Engineering Branch;

C. W. West,  
Director of Canal Services.

The Minister stated that the new Board of Engineers was called upon to determine whether the scheme recommended by the former Board of Engineers in its report of November, 1946, was still practicable or "what alternative

scheme, if any, would be better adapted to secure the ends desired".

The newly created Board of Engineers has been instructed at the same time to revise the costs of the 1926 recommendation. In the case an alternative scheme is submitted with respect to the revision of the upper section of the St. Lawrence River, the Board is instructed to estimate the costs of the undertaking. The Board is required to make its findings as soon as possible.

## HIGHER OLD AGE PENSIONS

**NEW AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES:** New agreements resulting from the Old Age Pensions Act amendments made at the recent session of Parliament have now been signed with all provinces, announces the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin.

By proclamation of the Governor-General-in-Council dated September 9, the changes which were made in the Act are now effective from May 1. This means that all provinces in their new agreements can take advantage of the benefits authorized by the legislation from that date.

The amended act obligates the federal government to pay 75 per cent of the net cost of pensions up to a maximum of \$30 per month per pensioner and leaves the provinces free to pay additional amounts over that rate.

During the past few years six provinces—British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia—have been paying supplemental allowances in addition to the basic pension. The allowances varied as between provinces, the highest being \$10 per month.

An unmarried old age pensioner may now have an outside income, including pension, of \$600 per year instead of the former maximum of \$425, and a married pensioner is allowed \$1,080 a year, including pension, in place of \$850.

These provisions are expected to add approximately 60,000 additional old age pensioners to the lists at a cost to the federal treasury of about \$20,000,000 per year. Total cost to Ottawa for pensions for the aged and for civilian blind under the new legislation is expected to total \$68,000,000 per year.

For civilian blind pensioners the eligible age for pension has been cut from 40 to 21 years. Permissible outside income of blind pensioners has been increased. For a single blind pensioner the maximum amount he may receive, including pension, has been increased from \$500 to \$720 a year. The maximum income, including pension, which a married blind pensioner may receive has been increased from \$925 to \$1,200 where the spouse is sighted and from \$1,000 to \$1,320 when the spouse is also blind.

With government assuming greater responsibility for maintenance to blind persons, private organizations assisting the blind will be free to concentrate their energies and

funds on treatment, training and rehabilitation programmes for the blind, Mr. Martin pointed out.

The new residence provision of the amended act will permit many persons being eligible for pension who, under the former legislation, would have been disqualified because of absences from Canada during 20 years immediately preceding their application.

Another important change will benefit a considerable number who have come to Canada from other countries and who for one reason or another have not been able to qualify for pension under the former Old Age Pensions Act on account of the nationality requirement.

## PROBLEM OF MENTAL HEALTH

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED:** A national advisory committee on mental health is to be established.

Aimed at ensuring the highest standards of mental health services throughout Canada, the committee will stress exchange of information and co-ordination of efforts between the provinces and the federal mental health division.

It will advise the minister of National Health on mental health services in the Dominion and will make a study of these services not only in Canada but in other countries as well. The chairman will be appointed by the deputy minister of national health, and the number to serve on the committee has been set at 15.

The second Dominion-provincial conference of mental health directors will be held in Ottawa on October 1, 2 and 3.

The purpose of these meetings is to enable provincial administrators of mental health services to discuss common problems and ways and means of meeting the increasing burden of mental illness, states Dr. C. G. Stogdill, chief of the mental health division of the Department of National Health and Welfare and chairman of the forthcoming conference.

The gravity of the problems facing the conference is indicated in the fact that the number of patients in Canadian mental hospitals has increased 50 per cent in the last 15 years, Dr. Stogdill said.

More recognition is being given to the mental factors in many illnesses hitherto considered purely organic, he also pointed out.

Representatives from various medical schools plan to take part in the discussions on certain aspects of mental ill-health in Canada, he added.

**SECOND CROP ESTIMATE:** Canada's 1947 wheat crop is now placed at 352.2 million bushels, according to the second estimate of production released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This production is being obtained from an estimated seeded acreage of 23.9 million acres yielding an estimated 14.7 bushels per acre.