

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the mission were to acquaint Canadian consulting engineers with the opportunities in Latin America; to draw attention of Latin Americans to the availability of Canadian engineering through consulting engineers; to assist those newly interested in export markets to determine for themselves the opportunities in Latin America and the advisability of becoming active there; to assist those already established to renew existing contacts and make new ones.

The Department of Trade and Commerce will be represented on the mission by Chief of the Engineering and Equipment Division, R.A. Frigon, who will act as secretary.

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BUSY SUMMER FOR GEOGRAPHERS

Twenty field-parties of the Geographical Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys are making studies across Canada, ranging from the observation of polar-ice formations to mapping the fruit-growing districts of British Columbia.

Announcing the programme, Mr. Comtois, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, said the geographical studies would help development planners, construction engineers, agriculturists and city designers to use the land and its resources to the best advantage. A major part of this work will be preparing land-use and terrain maps, to show such features as basic land-types, deposits suitable for construction materials, food and other resource potentials and many other aspects that, used in conjunction with the information on topographical and geological maps, present a three-dimensional picture of an area.

COUNTING ESKIMOS

Two geographers travelling by canoe, whale-boat and aircraft, are studying Eskimo distribution and the resources of the east coast of Hudson Bay between Great Whale River and Port Harrison. The survey is being carried out in co-operation with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to assist in planning improvements in the native economy.

A geographer, travelling by "Beaver" aircraft, is investigating the land form, surface deposits, local resources, native population and navigational problems of 20 settlements from George River in Ungava Bay to Baker on the west coast of Hudson Bay.

A geographer aboard the government ice breaker C.M.S. "d'Iberville" is investigating ice conditions and ice-navigational problems during the vessel's annual Eastern Arctic patrol to far northern waters.

Another seaborne geographer, aboard the C.M.S. "N.B. McLean", is making a study at many of the ship's ports of call of boulder chains formed on beaches by the action of

floating ice. His work may help solve the problem of landing supplies on tidal flats where boulder chains form a barrier to landing craft.

ARCTIC RIVERS

In the Queen Elizabeth Islands, geographers are studying the flow, erosion factors and sediment loads of streams and rivers. Under investigation are the Mecham River near Resolute, streams near Isachsen on Ellef Ringnes Island and a stream from a glacier on Axel Heiberg Island. The geographer on Axel Heiberg Island is a member of the 10-man Jacobsen-McGill expedition which is engaged on studies of surface materials, ground patterns, shorelines, permafrost and a regional physiographic study of the island. Similar studies by Branch geographers are being carried out on Ellef Ringnes Island and at Resolute.

Geographers are carrying out land-use mapping in southeastern Vancouver Island near Victoria, and the agricultural areas of the Saanich Peninsula.

The Geographical Branch is continuing to carry out a land-use inventory of Canadian fruit-growing regions. A party is mapping the fruit-growing areas of British Columbia, in particular the Okanagan Valley, and an analysis of this land-use will be compared with that of other fruit-belts in Canada that have already been surveyed.

Geographers are surveying the Lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia, between New Westminster and Chilliwack, in co-operation with the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board of B.C. In this area, the encroachment of urban land on agriculture is prominent, and a study of its effects is being made to help gather data to provide solutions to the control of urban development and the preservation of valuable rural land. Results of these studies will be an important tool, not only locally, but for comparison with similar studies in other parts of North America to gain basic knowledge of urban growth on agricultural land.

The Branch is surveying land-use in 230 square miles of the new irrigation areas west of the South Saskatchewan River. The results will indicate changes in land-use as irrigation becomes effective.

A land-use survey is being made of Pelee Island, Ontario, and a 1,150-square-mile area of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand counties in co-operation with the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs.

In the Maritimes, the Branch has completed land-use surveys of Prince Edward Island, and it is making a similar survey of the eastern part of New Brunswick.

In Newfoundland, a geographer is studying land-use in the Avalon Peninsula in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Mines and Resources. This is a continuation of a land-use mapping programme of the Atlantic Provinces, begun several years ago, during

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