

"The increasing importance of the Canadian Northland, economically and politically, in the modern scheme of things, has underlined the need for good base maps of the whole region. The first step to this end is to carry out high altitude vertical photography of the area to be mapped. This has been completed over the mainland Northwest Territories, and the Topographical Survey is now mapping this part of the Territories on a scale of four miles to the inch.

"Moving into the Arctic Islands, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys is getting under way this coming field season a \$6,000,000 project to photograph the Islands for later detailed topographical mapping. The project is the largest of its kind ever undertaken in the Free World, and it will take a dozen planes six years to photograph the 500,000-square-mile area.

"In anticipation of such photography and mapping, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, through its Geodetic Survey, started in 1955 to set up initial framework of survey control necessary for mapping over the Islands and completed the job in 1957. The Thousands of photos to be taken will be tied into this framework, as will the control for later topographical mapping of the Islands by the Topographical Survey.

"The Geodetic Survey was able to complete this vast project in such a short time by using shoran, an electronic method of distance measurement. Since 1949, it has completed a shoran network of survey control over all of the mainland Northwest Territories and Yukon, as well as over the Arctic Islands.

"Mention should also be made of the hydrographic surveys undertaken to make our northern waters safe for shipping. For this reason the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys has added a new vessel, the BAFFIN, to its hydrographic fleet for the special purpose of Arctic work. During the past few years, the Canadian Hydrographic Service has been charting shipping routes in the Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait for the shipment of ores and concentrates to European and other ports. In addition, that service also assigns hydrographers each year to the northern supply vessels of the Department of Transport to carry out charting along the vessels' tracks and in the ports visited."

\* \* \* \*

#### IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

The twelfth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women convenes in Geneva on March 17. For the first time in the history of the Commission a Canadian representative will take a seat on the Commission.

Canada was elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council last May to serve a three-year term on the Commission. The Council is the parent organ to which the Commission reports.

The Commission, whose function it is to prepare studies and make recommendations on all aspects of women's political, economic, social and educational status, will have a heavy agenda before it. Among the subjects which it will consider are reports on the political rights of women in member states of the United Nations and Trust and Non-self-governing Territories; on the access of women to education, prepared by UNESCO; on equal pay for equal work, prepared by the ILO; on economic opportunities for women including problems confronting working mothers, the age of retirement and the right to pension of women workers, conditions of working women including women with family responsibilities, and the right of working women to rest and to material security when they can no longer work.

The Commission will also consider the status of women in private law, technical assistance and advisory services in relation to the status of women, and reports from the Inter-American Commission on Women. Finally, it will consider its own future work programme and priorities.

Canada's representative on the Commission is Mrs. Harry Quart, M.B.E., of Quebec City who was also a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Twelfth Session of the General Assembly. Miss Marion Royce, Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labour, and Mr. Neill Currie, Department of External Affairs, will act as advisers to Mrs. Quart in Geneva.

#### WHOLESALE SALES LARGER

Wholesale sales in 1957 were estimated at \$7,744,103,000, a rise of 0.3 per cent from 1956's total of \$7,720,353,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. December sales were down 4.2 per cent to an estimated \$603,472,000 from the 1956 December total of \$630,071,000.

Sales were larger in 1957 as compared to 1956 for groceries and food specialties, footwear, drugs and drug sundries, newsprint, paper and paper products, tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks, automotive parts and accessories, and commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies. Year's sales were smaller for fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, clothing and furnishings, coal and coke, farm machinery, hardware, household electrical appliances, industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, and construction materials and supplies, including lumber.

Increases in 1957 were: groceries and food specialties, 8.8 per cent to \$1,355,447,000 from \$1,246,104,000; tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks, 7.6 per cent to \$605,083,000 from \$562,413,000; drugs and drug sundries, 6.1 per cent to \$189,223,000 from \$178,409,000; automotive parts and accessories, 2 per cent to \$394,313,000 from \$386,436,000; other