

FEDERAL SHIPBUILDING POLICY

The Minister of Transport, Mr. J.W. Pichersgill, made the following announcement recently:

The Government today established an interdepartmental committee to review the policy of assistance for ship construction. Pending the completion of the report of the committee and its consideration by the Government, no additional applications for subsidy payments for ship construction will be received, except for fishing vessels. This temporary halt to allow consideration of long-term policy does not represent abandonment of the policy of governmental assistance for ship construction.

HIGH-EMPLOYMENT PERIOD

Employment in the main Canadian shipyards increased during 1964. A substantial amount of construction under subsidies already approved has still to be carried out. In addition to subsidized construction, there is a substantial programme of government construction for the Coast Guard fleet of the Department of Transport and for other civil departments of government, and, with the recent announcement of the programme of construction and renovation for the Royal Canadian Navy, there will be a large volume of construction for government account in the present year. The high level of actual and prospective employment in the ship-yards, in conjunction with the general buoyant condition of the economy, indicated that the next few months would be the best time for a review of government policy. While it is not intended to abandon the policy of encouraging private shipbuilding in Canadian yards, consideration during the forthcoming review will, of course, be given to possible modifications of the policy to meet changing circumstances, and the Government will welcome representations from all interested in the policy. The interdepartmental committee will be expected to conduct the review with all convenient speed in order to ensure continuity of employment and activity in the shipbuilding industry....

SKI SAFETY WEEK

The role of the volunteer ski patrol in Canada has drawn strong support from the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Miss Judy LaMarsh. In a statement marking the opening of "National Ski-Safety Week," February 7 to 14, Miss LaMarsh lauded the plans of the Canadian Ski Patrol System's 2,000 volunteer workers to carry their message to ski areas across Canada.

SURVEY OF SKI HABITS

CSPS activities will include an "on-the-slope" survey of the ski habits of as many as 20,000 enthusiasts. The findings that result will aid the organization in its efforts to determine the cause of ski accidents and recommended how they can be avoided. "Safety should be every skier's business", Miss LaMarsh said. "The results of this survey can do much to keep accidents on our ski slopes to a minimum, so I hope that skiers will get behind it - for their own sake."

VISUAL AIDS

A set of films and filmstrips released this season by the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare is designed to interest more Canadians in taking up skiing, and to help skiers improve their skills. These visual aids are being used by the Ski Patrol and other national organizations in their own training programmes.

This year's Patrol survey will be the first carried out on a national basis. Statistics have been drawn to date from regional samplings, and from accident reports submitted by Patrol crews engaged in rescue work.

MORE WHEAT TO CANADA

The Canadian Wheat Board recently announced that, under the provisions of Canada's Second Long-Term Agreement with China, a further sales contract had been signed to provide for the export of 700,000 long tons (5 per cent more or less) of wheat, of which 620,000 tons would be shipped from Pacific ports from February through June and the balance of 80,000 tons from St. Lawrence or Atlantic ports during the same period. Assuming the full tolerance is taken, this amounts to slightly over 27 million bushels.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Including the sales contract covered by this announcement, total sales under the Second Long-Term Agreement amount to 2.8 million tons, or approximately 104.5 million bushels. As in the previous sales contracts, payment terms for sales under the Agreement are 25 per cent cash when each vessel is loaded and the balance of 75 per cent in 18 months with interest. The deferred-payment provision is made possible by a guarantee to the Canadian Wheat Board by the Government of Canada.

CANADIAN RE-ELECTED TO UNICEF

Dr. Joseph Willard, Deputy Minister of National Welfare, was re-elected Chairman of the Programme Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at a recent meeting of the Board in New York. Dr. Willard has been Canadian representative on the Board of UNICEF for a number of years.

Dr. Willard has also chaired the Social Commission of the United Nations and the Expert Committee on Social Security of the International Labour Organization, and has served as a member of the Expert Committee on Public Health Administration of the World Health Organization and as a consultant to the World Health Organization on a number of international health assignments in Costa Rica, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

Dr. Willard left Ottawa this week to attend in Geneva a Joint Policy Committee of UNICEF and WHO, two international organizations that work closely on joint projects to assist in health programmes for children in developing countries and have each year a joint policy session to set priorities and ensure co-ordination of their efforts.

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