

## NEW RESOURCES ROADS

The federal Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Arthur Laing, and the Minister of Natural Resources for Saskatchewan, Mr. Eiling Kramer, announced recently that their governments had agreed to include two additional roads in the "Roads to Resources" programme.

The two new roads will provide residents of Cumberland House, Pelican Narrows and Island Falls - Sandy Bay with access to the Saskatchewan highway system. The Cumberland Road will start at Squaw Rapids and proceed in a northeasterly direction along the Saskatchewan River about 60 miles to Cumberland House. The other new road will leave the Hanson Lake Road south of Jan Lake, go north to the settlement of Pelican Narrows, then north and east to the neighbouring communities of Island Falls and Sandy Bay on the Churchill River; it will be about 66 miles long.

### VALUE TO THE ECONOMY

The new roads will contribute to the national and provincial economy by providing access to areas of mineral and agricultural potential, commercial timber and fishing, and will open up further excellent recreational regions to assist the increasingly important tourist industry.

Under the "Roads to Resources" programme, the Federal Government shares with provincial governments the cost of roads to open up northern resources. The maximum shareable cost is \$15 million for each province.

In Saskatchewan, more than \$10 million has so far been spent under the agreement, the two governments contributing more than \$5 million apiece. The Otosquen Road linking Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, with The Pas, Manitoba, has been completed. The Hanson Lake Road, from Smeaton on No. 55 Highway, east of Prince Albert, to Flin Flon, is substantially completed and will be officially opened early in 1964. The La Ronge to Uranium City road has been built to Otter Rapids on the Churchill River, and pre-engineering work is being done for the road north toward Uranium City via Reindeer Lake. About 350 miles of road in all have been constructed.

Supervision of construction and maintenance of completed roads are the responsibility of the province.

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## PROGRAMME FOR OLDER WORKERS

Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, the Minister of Labour, announced recently that the hiring period for the Federal Government's Older Worker Employment Incentive Programme was being extended by two months, from January 31 to March 31, 1964. Under this plan, which became effective November 1, the Department of Labour is offering to pay to employers up to \$75 a month for 12 months for each new em-

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ployee 45 or over, who has been unemployed for six months or more, whom they hire in a new job or one not vacated since September 1, 1963.

In making the announcement, Mr. MacEachen said that the extension would give employers more time to consider their manpower requirements more fully and to make any adjustments in their hiring practises both to take advantage of the programme and to benefit older workers and their communities.

### IMAGINATIVE EXPERIMENT

The Minister said the programme involved a new idea for engaging workers. It is an imaginative experiment to try to overcome reluctance against hiring older workers and to solve employment problems for workers in this category who have experienced long unemployment. It has received the full endorsement of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, and other national organizations. The provincial departments of welfare are also giving their full support and co-operation.

Much interest in the programme has also been shown by individual employers in all parts of Canada. During the first month of the hiring period, some 325 employers had filed applications for older workers with the National Employment Service. The numbers will no doubt increase as the programme continues.

### TIME GAINED

The programme is specifically timed to encourage increased employment during the traditional off-season winter lull. This timing has tended to slow down employer response, since many of the job openings at this time of year are filled by rehiring workers temporarily laid off. The extension of the hiring period will allow more time for new jobs to develop.

Labour Minister MacEachen also announced that, in future, eligible older workers would not be required to exhaust their regular unemployment insurance benefits before qualifying under the programme. As long as they have been unemployed for six of the previous nine months, they will be able to participate. The removal of the "exhaustion of benefits" requirement will increase the response substantially on the part of workers and will also, according to the Minister, probably make the programme more attractive to employers.

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## DEFENCE RESEARCH IN CANADA - 1963

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involving organizations and systems. This relatively recent technique is employed widely by DRB and the armed services in clarifying and solving a variety of problems. The main emphasis this year was devoted by DRB scientists and specialist service officers to the roles of the armed forces and to their equipment policies.

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