

NEW DEAL FOR FISHERMEN

A federal-provincial programme to encourage the relocation of from 4,000 to 5,000 households from certain Newfoundland fishing settlements to more suitable communities within the province was announced recently by the federal Fisheries Minister, Mr. H.J. Robichaud, and Mr. C.M. Lane, Minister of Fisheries for Newfoundland.

This long-term plan for the centralization of fishermen in Newfoundland will affect only those isolated communities in which at least 90 per cent of the households agree to move. It will provide for the payment of a grant of \$1,000 to each household and \$200 to each member, as well as actual travel and removal expenses for the household and its effects to a designated "growth-point" within the province. The major share of the cost will be borne by the Federal Government. The offer of assistance is to be in effect for five years dating from next April 1.

GRADUAL CHANGE

The programme is to be carried out gradually. The assistance to the households involved is expected to average about \$2,400. The total cost will be several million dollars. A large number of isolated settlements are expected to be abandoned through the resettlement plan during the next five years.

While the programme is concerned mainly with fishermen, its terms will apply to all households in a settlement, regardless of occupation. Payment of removal expenses and grants to non-fishing households, and fishing households not wanting to continue fishing, will be for relocation in approved places in the province. Persons wishing to continue fishing will be eligible only when moving to approved fishing settlements where employment opportunities are offered either afloat or ashore.

EARLIER PROVINCIAL SCHEME

For some years past, the Government of Newfoundland has provided financial assistance of up to \$600 a household to encourage fishermen to move to more suitable locations within the province, where agreement to move has been reached by all members of the community. Under this programme, some 90 settlements have been abandoned, while gradual unassisted abandonment of some 60 additional settlements has also taken place.

After abandonment of a settlement, the land is to revert to the Crown to prevent year-round resettlement, though seasonal fishing or other operations may continue, but with no additional public facilities.

The plan stemmed from the realization by both federal and provincial governments that opportunities for improvement of income and living standards of fishermen would continue to be limited so long as fishermen remained dispersed in several hundred small fishing settlements. Many of these have as few as 10 or 15 households; the fishermen use small boats and are dependent on fish coming close to shore, and are further handicapped by short fishing seasons, local curing of fish under salt, and restricted market opportunities.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

A five-day combined study group and conference on the role of the federal-provincial emergency health services in peacetime and wartime disaster ended recently at the Civil Defence College in Arnprior, Ontario. Attending were regional medical directors, nurses, environmental-health officers, health-supplies officers and provincial representatives in the same professions.

This was the first time all key federal and provincial emergency health-services planners had gathered to study how health workers and resources could be mobilized and employed in time of emergency.

As a result of the study, all delegates agreed that successful emergency health planning should be standard and flexible. Agreement was reached on the responsibilities of federal officials and their provincial counterparts. It was emphasized that in time of emergency both the federal and provincial health directors and their staffs would work as a unit.

NEW ENVOY TO IRAQ

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, announced recently the concurrent accreditation of Mr. Thomas Paul Malone, Canadian Ambassador to Iran, as Ambassador to Iraq. Canadian diplomatic relations with Iraq were previously maintained through the concurrent accreditation of the Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon, who is now to be concurrently accredited to Jordan.

Mr. Malone was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in February 1915, and was educated at the University of Alberta. From 1936 to 1942, Mr. Malone was employed as a journalist and Commonwealth Press Fellow on newspapers in Canada, Britain and Australia. In 1942, he joined the Wartime Information Board, serving in Canberra as Press Attaché at the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada. In 1946, Mr. Malone joined the Department of External Affairs; he has served in Canberra, Washington, and The Hague, where, in 1958, he was named Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy. In 1962, Mr. Malone was appointed Ambassador to Tehran.

NEW STAMP FOR ICY

A stamp honouring International Co-operation Year was issued by the Post Office Department on March 3. Postmaster-General René Tremblay said that the stamp was part of Canada's contribution to the United Nations' sponsorship of 1965 as a Year of International Co-operation. Its aim would be to foster greater interest in United Nations efforts in the field of international goodwill, in order to achieve a deeper and wider understanding of the aims, purposes and achievements of the United Nations family of organizations. Canada, as a member of the United Nations Committee for ICY, heartily endorsed this aim, Mr. Tremblay declared, and the Year's theme "Peace and Progress through Co-operation".

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