

up uniform standards and procedures in the field of radiation protection generally.

A useful step was taken to improve the protection offered to X-ray workers when the first meeting was held of the newly-formed X-ray Safety Committee, whose members are drawn from government and non-government bodies. A recommendation calling for a system of registration of X-ray equipment and personnel monitoring was approved by the Dominion Council of Health.

**HOSPITAL INSURANCE**

The outstanding co-operative arrangements between federal and provincial governments for hospital insurance, which had been established in the early stages of the plan, continued in evidence. During the year, meetings were held of the Advisory Committee on Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services, its sub-committees and working parties. A number of amendments were made in the federal-provincial agreements, which, for the most part, had the effect of broadening existing provincial plans.

**INDIAN-ESKIMO TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The Medical Services Directorate, having launched two years ago a community health-workers training programme for Indians and Eskimos, is planning an extension of this project, involving an even larger group of Indians. To date, there have been two groups - 13 Indians and eight Eskimos - trained to do public-health work among their own people. Plans are now far advanced to recruit an additional 26 Indians, with the aim of eventually having such auxiliary health personnel in every community of the indigenous population. All reports indicate that these workers are highly effective in educating their own people in the ways of improving health standards.

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**OTTAWA ARTS CENTRE APPROVED**

The Prime Minister announced on December 23 that the Government had approved in principle the establishment in Ottawa of a National Centre for the Performing Arts, which would provide a showcase for the performing arts as well as central facilities for the various national organizations serving the arts. The Government has also approved in principle the organization of an annual National Festival. The first performance is to be held at the proposed Centre in 1967 as part of the observances of Canada's Centennial. These two projects were recommended recently by the National Capital Arts Alliance.

**CHOICE OF SITE**

The Arts Alliance, in its proposal for the National Centre for the Performing Arts, suggested a site on Sussex Street. The Mayor of Ottawa has proposed the area of Confederation Square. The Prime Minister said that the National Capital Commission was considering the question of the site and had been

asked by the Government to provide information on alternative costs and other related factors. Before the site is actually chosen, there will be full discussion with all those concerned.

**PROGRAMME FOR THE CENTRE**

When appointed, the trustees of the Centre, in co-operation with the City of Ottawa as well as interested groups across the country, will have government authorization to develop a programme for the use of the Centre, including its use for amateur festivals on a national basis, the purpose of which will be to stimulate the development of the arts in Canada without duplication of work now being done by regional and other organizations.

The Government has also authorized the setting up of a committee to prepare recommendations for submission to the Cabinet on the execution of the project, taking into account its future growth and development, with a view to the introduction of legislation at the next session of Parliament.

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**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TRAFFIC**

The fifth season of the St. Lawrence Seaway was brought to a close with a record 31 million tons of cargo, 20 per cent greater than last year, transiting between Montreal and Lake Ontario. The Welland Canal, between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, had another record year, with cargo traffic exceeding 41 million tons. This is a 15 percent increase over last year's 35,400,000 tons on this section of the waterway. November traffic statistics, plus an estimate covering continued transit to December 13, provide the above figures.

The last ship of the season cleared the St. Lambert Lock into Montreal Harbour during the afternoon of December 13. Navigation on the Welland Canal came to an end on the morning of December 19.

Traffic of 4,417,000 tons transiting the Montreal-Lake Ontario section in November marked the fourth month of 1963 that cargo movement exceeded the 4 million-ton mark. On the Welland Canal, November's cargo traffic of 5,098,000 tons made it seven months in a row that traffic was over 5 million tons.

**BULK CARGO**

Bulk cargo carried through the Seaway section between Montreal and Lake Ontario for the period to the end of November totalled some 27 million tons, and general cargo exceeded 2,800,000 tons. Though the downbound movement of grain was heavy, traffic was in reasonable balance, with some 16,600,000 tons downbound and over 13,300,000 tons upbound.

Welland Canal figures show an increase for the period in both upbound and downbound cargoes. The increase in upbound traffic amounted to 20 per cent, with a total of 12,867,000 tons, while downbound shipments increased by over 10 per cent from 23,946,000 tons to 26,535,000 tons.