

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: A programme of vocational training especially adapted to northern conditions, to be put into effect this year, was announced on March 10 by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Lesage.

The provision of adequate vocational training for residents of the far North has always presented a problem to those responsible for northern administration. In the past young men and women living in the Northwest Territories and wishing to qualify as mechanics, electricians, stenographers, or in any one of a dozen related skills, have found it difficult to get the required training without going a long way from home.

In future they are going to receive some practical help in solving the problem, Mr. Lesage said. Provision of the training facilities required to prepare the youth of growing communities to serve the needs of those communities is a further step in the overall programme of northern development now going forward.

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES

The programme, which is being developed by the Education and Welfare Services of Northern Affairs, will enable those who live in the Territories to qualify in commercial subjects, apprenticeship skills, and as nurses' aides. The aim is to provide opportunities to the children of residents of the Territories to acquire training and to provide employers with a local reservoir of skilled labour.

In Yellowknife, for example, the largest settlement in the North, and at Fort Smith, the administrative centre for the Territories, the demand for trained office workers, automotive engineers, plumbers, carpenters and equipment maintenance personnel can only be met by bringing in people from the provinces. The same situation in a degree exists in other communities in the North.

Last summer, at the request of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, officials of the Department of Labour and of the Alberta Department of Education carried out a joint vocational training survey in the south of the Mackenzie District. An occupational survey was also made by Northern Affairs to find out, from employers, what job opportunities exist or are likely to develop in the area.

Cost of the commercial portion of the programme will be shared equally by the Northwest Territories Council, the Department of Labour and Yellowknife School District No. 1.

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37,430,938 pairs of leather footwear were made in 1952, more than in any other year except 1945 and 1946 and 4,323,778 pairs of 13% more than in 1951. Peak year was 1946 when 42,926,080 pairs were made.

NEW RCN TRAINING PLAN: Approval has been given for the immediate implementation of a new plan for the procurement and training of junior officers for the Royal Canadian Navy, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced in the House of Commons on March 8.

Entitled the "Venture Plan", it offers a seven-year short service appointment to young men between 16 and 19 years of age possessing the necessary qualifications. The latter include Junior Matriculation, or the equivalent.

Cadets who show a desire to make the Navy their career may later obtain permanent commissions if they have the necessary qualifications. Up to now the Navy has been obtaining its junior officers from the Canadian Services Colleges, the Universities and the "lower deck".

The "Venture Plan" has been devised to meet the continuing demand for officers arising out of the expansion of the Royal Canadian Navy. It does not replace any of the existing officer-entry plans, but supplements them.

A training establishment, to be named HMCS "Venture", will be commissioned in the naval dockyard at Esquimalt, B.C. Existing resources in West Coast naval establishments will be utilized to provide living quarters, classrooms and facilities for training and recreation.

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PETROLEUM RISE: New high record quantities of petroleum products were used for heating residences and buildings and for cooking and lighting in Canada in 1952, according to results of the Bureau's annual survey. The year's total amounted to 1,220,200,000 gallons, 17% above 1951's 1,042,500,000, and nearly nine times as large as in 1942. Consumption has nearly doubled since 1949 when 655,600,000 gallons were used.

An additional 1,705,400,000 gallons were used in 1952 for industrial purposes, as fuel for tractors and other motor vehicles, railways, fuel for ships and boats, as compared with 1,598,000,000 in 1951. This brought the year's total usage to 2,925,600,000 gallons as compared with 2,640,500,000 in 1951.

Consumption of heavy and medium fuel oils by Canadian users in 1952 totalled 1,418,000,000 gallons, up from 1,362,000,000 in 1951.

Consumption of furnace oils and other light fuel oils amounted to 837,000,000 gallons, sharply above the preceding year's 668,000,000. The amount used for heating homes and buildings and for lighting and cooking climbed to 724,000,000 gallons from 583,000,000, and for industrial purposes as fuel or material to 99,600,000 gallons from 68,500,000.

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3,352,366 telephones were in service in Canada at the end of 1952, nearly 8% more than in 1951 and almost twice as many as a decade earlier.