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CONTENTS

Huge Telescope to Bear Queen's Name.....	1
Gifts for Her Majesty.....	2
Pioneer Debts Written Off.....	2
Price Indexes of Highway Construction.....	2
British Home Builders Visit.....	2
IJC to Study Great Lakes Water Levels.....	3

TV Spotter for Use of Infantry.....	3
ICAO Assembly to Meet in Canada.....	3
Radio and TV Awards to CBC.....	4
Conference on Indian Affairs.....	4
Mental Retardation Meeting.....	4

HUGE TELESCOPE TO BEAR QUEEN'S NAME

In honour of the 1964 visit of the Queen, Canada plans to build a 150-inch reflecting telescope — one of the largest in the world. The complex will be named the Queen Elizabeth II Observatory. "It is fitting, indeed", said Prime Minister L.B. Pearson, who announced the project, "that this great new Canadian instrument of science be named after Her Majesty, who, in her person and her office, symbolizes those values, so precious in our heritage, which remain constant in an ever-changing world."

CHOICE OF SITE
Site investigations have been in progress for some time by scientists from the Observatories Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. The search has been narrowed to five possible mountainous locations — three in southern British Columbia and two in southern Alberta. Construction will take about six years.

The largest optical telescopes in Canada at present are the 74-inch instrument at the Dunlap Observatory, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Ontario, and the 72-inch Dominion Astrophysical Observatory telescope at Victoria, B.C. When the new telescope comes into use, it will be exceeded in size only by the 200-inch instrument at Mount Palomar, California.

OPENING OF A NEW ERA

"It is confidently expected", said Mr. Pearson "that completion of the Queen Elizabeth II Observatory will mark the opening of a new era of achievement for Canadian astronomers and will ensure Canada a place in the van of nations during the period of great advance in the physical sciences."

Mr. W.M. Benidickson, the Minister of mines and Technical Surveys, said that the new telescope would bolster Canada's scientific prestige and stimulate the development of scientific personnel. It would, he added, be made available to universities and other Canadian institutions carrying on advanced research in Astronomy and the related physical sciences.

Mr. Benidickson estimated the capital cost of the project at approximately \$10 million, of which 85 per cent would be spent in Canada, providing both employment and new experience to Canadian engineering, electronics and other firms.

With advances in science and technology increasingly dependent on knowledge obtained from outer space, the Minister foresaw the new telescope "enabling Canada to carry on an aggressive research programme in the space sciences".