

trapper. Like many of the Eskimos of his generation, he has no formal education but he reads and writes the Eskimo syllabics of the Eastern Arctic.

Alain Iyerak is not a well-known sculptor. His remarkable talent was discovered for the first time when weather conditions delayed departmental officers in the remote settlement. The magnificent carving of the woman and child was on display in the local school house.

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### SEARCH FOR FRANKLIN GRAVE

A search in Canada's Far North for the grave and records of the ill-fated explorer, Sir John Franklin, will be undertaken in August as a centennial project by some 50 soldiers of the Canadian Army, supported by two helicopters.

From August 3 to 25, the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Group, using the latest armed forces survival equipment, and backed by CH 113A *Voyager* helicopters equipped with long-range fuel tanks, will search King William Island, the northeast corner of Victoria Island and part of Boothia Peninsula.

Sir John Franklin, who was born in England in April 1786, made three voyages of exploration in the Canadian Arctic and is recognized as the discoverer of the Northwest Passage. Franklin and all members of his third Arctic expedition perished. He himself is known to have died on June 11, 1847.

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### DIVORCE RATE UP

According to preliminary figures released recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, a record number of divorces (10,215) were granted during 1966 by provincial and territorial divorce courts and the Parliament of Canada.

There were increases over the number in 1965 in all provinces except New Brunswick and Ontario. A large part of the increase is accounted for by those granted to Quebec residents by the Parliament of Canada during the first session of the twenty-seventh Parliament (1966), compared to the number granted during the previous session. Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta accounted for three out of four of the 1966 divorces.

The 1966 divorce rate was 51.0 (per 100,000 population), compared to 45.9 and 44.8 for the two preceding years. The rate has been rising steadily since 1961, when it stood at 36.0, the lowest since 1944.

Of the total of 10,215 divorces granted in 1966 in over 6,000, or in almost six out of every ten cases, the wife was the petitioner for divorce. Among the provinces, the proportions in which the wife was the plaintiff or applicant for divorce varied from 51 to 67 per cent.

### NHA INTEREST RATE INCREASED

The President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation Mr. H.W. Hignett, announced recently that the maximum rate of interest that may be charged on National Housing Act insured mortgage loans had been increased to 7½ per cent from 7 per cent, effective July 1. The new rate is applicable to all new insured mortgage loans on new and existing housing and housing in urban-renewal areas.

The new rate is based on a formula that permits the NHA interest rate to fluctuate in relation to changing yields on long-term Government of Canada bonds. Every three months, the rate is set at 1½ per cent above that applicable to long-term Canadian bonds, adjusted to the nearest quarter of 1 per cent.

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### PROFIT FOR COTC

The seventeenth annual report of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, recently released in the House of Commons by the Minister of Transport, Mr. J.W. Pickersgill, showed a net profit of \$3,549,713 for 1967, compared to \$2,560,559 for 1966, an increase of 39 per cent.

In the report, Mr. Douglas F. Bowie, President of the Corporation, noted that the COTC was making substantial use of the satellite system for operations with Britain and continental Europe and that a contract for a new earth station would soon be placed with a Canadian supplier.

### NEW PROJECTS

The report mentions the completion of the Southeast Asia Commonwealth cable, which will result in improved services with countries in that area and also with the East Caribbean islands.

A multichannel cable system between Canada and Bermuda, planned jointly by the Corporation and Cable and Wireless Limited and expected to be operating early in 1969, will provide facilities required to meet increasing traffic between Canada and other Commonwealth countries and Bermuda. Areas served by Bermuda would also benefit.

Installation of a fully automatic telegraph switching-centre in Montreal is undergoing final testing, which will provide automatic routing of messages in both directions. Additional equipment was also brought into service for telex operations to provide for the extension of automatic working with more and more countries and for subscriber-to-subscriber dialling, which is expected to be introduced soon.

Station-to-station telephone service was introduced between Canada and Britain and a number of European countries earlier this year and this brought about reductions in rates of up to 25 per cent. It is hoped that this service can be extended to other countries as more facilities are made available to accommodate the growth expected from the application of the lower rates.