

EXPORT CREDITS INSURANCE

According to the 1966 annual report of the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, \$208-million worth of Canadian exports were insured last year, including \$52 million on behalf of the Federal Government. The Corporation also signed long-term financing agreements to provide \$24 million for five capital-goods projects abroad.

The ECIC was established to promote the expansion of Canada's export trade by offering exporters low-cost protection against non-payment by foreign buyers. It also provides long-term export financing for sales involving capital-goods projects and related services when extended credit terms are required.

INCREASED VOLUME

Export sales insured by ECIC on its own account during 1966 totalled \$155 million compared to \$134 million in 1965, an increase of 16 per cent. There were 589 policies current at December 31, 1966 — an increase of 47 over the number of policies current at the end of the previous year. Nevertheless, premiums earned under these policies were down to \$694,461 from \$735,565 in 1965. Thus, while the volume of business insured increased by 16 per cent, the corresponding premiums decreased by six per cent — the result of ECIC's continuing policy of reducing premium rates whenever possible, consistent with sound underwriting principles.

Claims paid during the year were \$771,407 compared to \$149,957 paid in 1965. Of the claim payments in 1966, \$406,870 was paid under the exchange-transfer risk.

Operating expenses and net claims exceeded income by \$9,095 in 1966. However, interest of \$322,655 on investments resulted in a net income for the year transferred to Earned Surplus of \$313,560.

NEW AGREEMENTS

During 1966, Orders in Council were issued under Section 21A of the Export Credits Insurance Act authorizing financing agreements to cover seven projects with an aggregate value of \$73 million. Section 21A provides a source of funds for Canadian capital-goods producers that develop business abroad justifying extended credit terms. Unexpected delays prevented the signing of two of these financing agreements, one of which, for \$38.5 million, was signed on February 28, 1967. The five financing agreements signed in 1966 had a total value of

\$24 million compared to six agreements signed in 1965 with a value of \$57 million. After six years in the long-term export financing field, ECIC has signed 37 contracts valued at \$292 million covering major projects in 13 countries.

The Export Credits Insurance Act was amended during the year. Included in the amendments was an increase from \$400 million to \$500 million in the funds available under Section 21A.

KEEPING THE WOLF FROM THE DEER

Mr. René Brunelle, Ontario's Minister of Lands and Forests, has announced that his Department plans to extend its present wolf-management programme to assist areas in Ontario during 1967 by training and appointing additional predator-control officers and by conducting predator-control workshops in areas where wolves are a menace to livestock or game.

The existing wolf-management control programme is based on facts revealed by a research programme conducted over a 10-year period, which indicated that wolf populations could be controlled in areas where there was need through efficient trapping methods. Poisons will not be used.

Mr. Brunelle stated that the Department had no plans to change its present policy to permit hunting or trapping in Algonquin Provincial Park or to raise the bounty on wolves, since there was no proof that an increased bounty would reduce wolf numbers in the areas needing control.

REBUILDING THE DEER HERD

The Department has plans for increasing its winter deer-yard improvement programme to provide more winter browse for deer.

"To rebuild the deer herd and maintain it at a reasonable high level," said Mr. Brunelle, "the Department proposes to rehabilitate 20,000 square miles of southern Ontario deer range. On the basis of existing knowledge, improvement of 18,000 acres annually spread over the whole range above would be necessary. The average cost of such an operation would be \$15 an acre, or \$270,000 annually, with particular attention being paid to areas where there is indication of a low level of deer population. A special effort will be made to attract deer to selected spots along Highway Number 60 in Algonquin Park."
