

projects, while others are engaged on joint projects undertaken by the federal and provincial departments concerned with fisheries.

NEW TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATED

The fishing specialists, grouped for administrative purposes under the label "special service personnel", have been placed under contract for varying periods by the Industrial Development Service of the federal department, which is administering this special technical-assistance programme, for a twofold purpose — to demonstrate to Canada's fishermen new techniques that will enable them to diversify their efforts, and to work with the service's permanent staff of engineers and technologists in developing and testing new vessels, new fishing methods, new processing and handling techniques, and even to develop new fish products.

Practical experience, gained during long years at sea, for which there is no quick and easy substitute, is playing an important part in this special activity. The experts assigned to the programme include technologists of repute, but there are also veteran skippers who have spent up to 50 years at their calling and whose knowledge and skills could have been gained in no other way than by actual fishing, boat-building and fish-handling.

CHIEF OBJECTIVE

The Chief object of the programme to which these specialists are contributing is to help bring Canada's fishing industry, particularly in its primary sector, to as modern and efficient a state as possible, so that, against keen competition from other fishing nations, Canada can take full advantage of the great resource at its disposal.

CATTLE TO WEST INDIES

More than 500 head of Canadian Holstein-Friesian cattle, valued at over \$217,000, have been sold to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados as a direct result of a trade mission brought to Canada last spring by the Department of Trade and Commerce. Trinidad and Tobago has bought 262 head, Jamaica 128 and Barbados 126. An additional order for 40 head is expected shortly from a private Jamaican breeder.

Each of these Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean recently embarked on an extensive development programme for its dairy cattle industry. An integral part of all programmes is the importation of good breeding stock. Aware of these developments, the Department of Trade and Commerce organized a seven-man mission comprising agricultural officials and private breeders from the three countries which visited Canada last May. The group visited prominent herds, attended auction sales in southwestern Ontario and discussed purchases with officials of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada and the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce.

NATIONAL WATERFOWL PERMIT

Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing recently announced the introduction next autumn of the Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, which will make possible, for the first time, a national waterfowl-kill survey.

The \$2.00 permit, which will be on sale at post offices late next summer, will be required in addition to any provincial licence by all hunters of ducks, geese, snipe, woodcock and other migratory game birds. Free permits will be issued to Indians and Eskimos. Distribution problems in remote areas may result in a one-year suspension of the requirement for Indians and Eskimos and in the Yukon and North-west Territories.

Mr. Laing said that the permit — and the kill survey it will make possible — are only part of a comprehensive national wildlife programme he hopes to outline in the House of Commons soon.

NEED FOR NEW PERMIT

The idea of the permit has been supported by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and by other hunters' and naturalists' groups. The Minister explained that the permit was necessary to find out how many waterfowl hunters there were in Canada, where, when and how often they hunted, and how many waterfowl of each species they were harvesting. This kind of information is vital to effective management of the country's waterfowl resource.

It has been estimated that there are about 350,000 waterfowl hunters in Canada and that they spend about \$30 million a year on their sport.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claimants for unemployment insurance benefit numbered 418,000 on December 31, 1965, in comparison to 244,600 on November 30. On December 31, 1964, the total was 478,200. Men accounted for more than 80 per cent of the month-to-month increase, which was normal for this season of the year; nevertheless, the decline from a year ago was chiefly among men. Some 67,000 of the December 31 count were identified as seasonal-benefit claimants.

A total of 262,200 initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were filed in local offices across Canada during December. This represents an increase of some 110,000 over the November total of 151,500 but is 54,000 fewer than for December 1964.

The average weekly number of beneficiaries was estimated at 216,500 in December 1965, in comparison to 126,300 in November 1965 and 236,900 a year ago. Benefit payments amounted to \$21.2 million in December 1965, \$12.6 million in November 1965 and \$24.5 million in December 1964. The average weekly benefit payment was \$24.46 for December 1965, for November 1965 and \$24.62 for December 1964.
