

LOW FOREST FIRE LOSS

How weather can work for or against forest fire-fighters was summed up in comparative forest-fire statistics for 1959 and 1958 issued recently by the Forestry Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

During the 1959 forest season there were 5,337 forest fires in Canada, 32 per cent fewer than the 7,817 fires in the 1958 season. The number of acres of forest burned over or destroyed in 1959 was 704,500, whereas fire struck 4,939,000 acres in 1958.

Forest-fire officials point out that favourable weather conditions were chiefly responsible for the great reduction of fire losses as compared to last year. Increased forest fire protection facilities and quick action by fire-fighters also contributed substantially to this improvement.

SURVEY NETWORK COMPLETE

A major link in the Canadian portion of the vast network of survey control of North America was completed during the past season by a geodetic field party of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Made at a point near Emerson about 50 miles south of Winnipeg, it joins the network of survey control of Western Canada with that of Eastern Canada.

This network, established by the Department bit by bit over the years, provides the basis for all surveying and mapping in Canada.

"In this network", states Minister of Mines Paul Comtois, "no point in Canada is now more than 150 miles from a survey control point. The density of control is, of course, much greater than this in the higher-developed areas of Canada. But, in the northern mainland and on the Arctic Islands, the density of survey control is sufficient to meet present development requirements. However, it will have to be extended greatly as development of these regions proceeds."

The link at Emerson was established on the fiftieth anniversary of the Department's Geodetic Survey Division. The Division's first

geodetic monument, a large cairn on the top of King Mountain in what is now Gatineau National Park, was erected in 1909.

NATO DELEGATES

The Canadian Delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council, which opened on December 15, consists of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, the Minister of Finance, Mr. D.M. Fleming, and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. C.R. Pearkes. They are being assisted by Mr. N.A. Robertson, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. G.A. Drew, High Commissioner for Canada to the United Kingdom, Mr. Jules Léger, Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. A.F.W. Plumptre, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, General C. Foulkes, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, and officials of the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence and of the Permanent Delegation in Paris.

ONTARIO SPONSORS A-PARLEY

Ontario Energy Resources Minister Robert Macaulay, announced recently that a high-level conference on the future of uranium and atomic energy in Canada would be sponsored by the Province from January 11 to 13 in Toronto.

It is expected the conference will include 500 delegates representing all organizations in the nuclear-energy field, such as nuclear scientists, mining specialists, industrialists, manufacturers, financial experts, government officials and representatives of labour.

"The Government of Ontario is deeply concerned over the uncertainty and indeterminate future which faces the uranium industry," Mr. Macaulay said.

Mr. Macaulay added that the conference would be non-technical and conducted on a layman's level so that labour, management, consumers, industrialists, manufacturers and government officials would understand each other's roles in a discussion of the future.