

also be asked to approve the doubling of the annual grants to universities, and the payment of these funds to the National Conference of Canadian universities for division by it among the recognized institutions of higher learning.

"A measure will be placed before you for the purpose of renewing on a revised and increased basis the federal programme of grants to provincial governments in aid of technical and vocational training.

"It is proposed to recommend in the Senate the establishment of a committee to consider what should be done to make better use of land for agriculture and thus to contribute more effectively to the improvement of agricultural production and the incomes of those engaged in it.

"An amendment extending the scope of the Municipal Grants Act will be laid before you to authorize the payment of grants in lieu of taxes on federal property in all municipalities where such property receives the normal municipal services.

"An amendment to the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act will be presented making appropriate improvements in the scale of benefits to disabled seamen and the dependants of deceased seamen.

"You will be asked to consider legislation for the implement of a north Pacific fur seal convention.

"An amendment to the Sockeye Salmon Convention Act to include pink salmon in this international agreement will also be laid before you.

"You will be asked to consider a revision of the law controlling narcotic drugs in the light of the report of the Senate Committee on the Use of Narcotics in Canada.

"A bill will be introduced for the purpose of continuing the Canadian Wheat Board as the sole marketing agency for Western wheat, oats and barley.

"A measure will be laid before you to provide for the division of the National Museum of Canada into two museums to be known as the Canadian Museum of Natural History and the Canadian Museum of Human History.

"A revision of the Federal District Commission Act will be presented for your consideration.

"Amendments of detail to a number of other acts will also be introduced."

MODERN CONVENIENCES: Proportions of Canadian homes equipped with modern conveniences increased again in 1956, according to the annual survey of household facilities and equipment, results of which were published today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The survey shows that over nine-tenths of all households were served with electricity and all but a comparatively small number had radios. More than 80 per cent had washing

machines and piped water, and between 70 per cent and 80 per cent had electrical refrigerators, telephones, and flush toilets.

Topping the list in rate of increase over 1955 were television receivers, with sets now in some 54 per cent of the estimated 3,974,000 households versus 39 per cent in 1955 (as already reported on December 27). Radios showed virtually no change at 96 per cent, but telephones increased to 74 per cent from 70 per cent, and household electrification to 94 per cent from 93 per cent.

The increase in the rate of electrification of Canadian households is also reflected in the number with other conveniences: washing machines jumped to 81 per cent from 79 per cent, electrical refrigerators to 79 per cent from 75 per cent, vacuum cleaners to 55 per cent from 52 per cent, and electric sewing machines to 31 per cent from 28 per cent. The foot treadle type fell to 35 per cent from 37 per cent.

Some 57 per cent of Canadian households used furnaces for heating purposes versus 54 per cent in 1955. Oil was used as a heating fuel in some 46 per cent of households, up from 43 per cent, and use of gas rose to 8 per cent from 7 per cent, but those using coal declined to 26 per cent from 29 per cent, and wood to 18 per cent from 20 per cent. Some 45 per cent of all households used electric stoves for cooking purposes, up from 42 per cent, and gas to 21 per cent from 20 per cent, but those using wood or coal fell to 28 per cent from 31 per cent. About 58 per cent of households had automobiles versus 56 per cent in 1955.

The proportion of owner-occupied dwellings in 1956 remained virtually unchanged at about 68 per cent. For tenant-occupied dwellings the proportion rented for less than \$30 a month fell to 19 per cent from 22 per cent a year earlier, but those renting for between \$30 and \$49 a month remained unchanged at 31 per cent. Those renting from \$50 to \$69 a month rose to 24 per cent from 23 per cent, and 70 per cent and over the 26 per cent from 24 per cent.

OYSTER REHABILITATION: An experience-proven plan to speed the rehabilitation of depleted oyster fishing grounds in two Atlantic provinces will be launched this year by the federal Department of Fisheries.

The plan will involve the re-seeding of oyster beds depleted by natural mortalities.

The Department plans to introduce, during the next three years, approximately 10,000 barrels of oysters from Prince Edward Island to the depleted areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The first transfer will be made in May and June of 1957 at which time the Department will purchase about 1,500 barrels of oysters from the fishermen and oyster farmers of Prince Edward Island.