

going no further than Quebec. Ships venturing further did so by waiting until the flood-prevention work had opened a channel. Ice jams provide a recurring flood menace to low-lying parts of Montreal, since the ice "rafts" at times right to the river bottom and holds back the water. Removal of this danger has been a regular programme of the Department ever since the disastrous Montreal flood of 1928.

TASKS AND SHIPS

Coast Guard icebreakers participating in the season's operations were, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, CCGS "John A. Macdonald", CCGS "Labrador" and CCGS "d'Iberville" and, in Newfoundland waters, CCGS "Sir Humphrey Gilbert". In the Quebec-Sept Iles area, aiding Canadian coastal vessels, clearing ice jams from the Quebec bridge over the St. Lawrence, and keeping open the Quebec-Levis ferry channel, were CCGS "Montcalm", CCGS "Simon Fraser" and CCGS "Tupper". Carrying out anti-flooding operations in the Montreal-Quebec section of the river were CCGS "N.B. McLean", CCGS "Saurel" and CCGS "Ernest Lapointe".

FLYING TEACHERS' REVIEW

For the twelfth year in a row, the Department of Transport is sponsoring two civil flying instructor refresher courses, one at the Waterloo-Wellington Flying Club, Kitchener, Ontario, from May 7 to 16, and the other at the Calgary (Alberta) Flying Club from August 20 to 29.

Each course will be attended by 30 licensed instructors. Those living east of the Lakehead are eligible to attend the eastern course, while those living west of the Lakehead may apply to attend the western course.

LECTURES AND EXERCISES

Each day the schedule will be divided between classroom lectures and air exercises. All instructors will fly two hours a day in light aeroplanes, two instructors flying together at all times, exchanging instructional methods and techniques. Both clear-hood and instrument flying exercises will be included, and each instructor will receive several periods of instruction in the link trainer and a demonstration of advanced instrument-flying procedures in a twin-engine Piper "Apache" aircraft.

A five-hour day in the classroom will include lectures on clear-hood and instrument flying exercises, meteorology, air-traffic control procedures and operational techniques. Discussion periods and training films will supplement the lectures.

A highlight of the ground-school programme will be a series of lectures on the principles of learning as applied to flying.

ADMINISTERING BODIES

Department of Transport personnel are responsible for the provision of the lectures on technical subjects and the day to day supervision of all phases of training throughout the courses. The courses are jointly administered and managed by the Royal

Canadian Flying Clubs Association and the Air Transport Association of Canada. All costs of conducting them are covered by a government grant.

The courses were first established in 1952 as a means of standardizing flying-training techniques at a uniformly high level across Canada. In the intervening years well over 600 licensed flying instructors have successfully completed the courses.

The courses are now receiving international recognition. Two years ago, two aviation officials from the State of Montana attended the western course at Calgary and subsequently presented a similar course to a group of American flying instructors at Helena, Montana. Last year a representative of the Australian Department of Civil Aviation attended the western course at Kelowna, British Columbia, as an observer, to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a similar school in Australia.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

The volume of sales of new motor vehicles increased 17.4 per cent in February, to 45,738 units from 38,956 in February last year, while the retail value advanced 21.7 per cent, to \$143,738,000 from \$118,128,000. This brought the volume of sales in the January-February period to 89,012 units, up 9.6 per cent from the year-earlier total of 81,232, and the retail value to \$280,847,000, up 11.8 per cent from the like 1962 figure of \$251,315,000.

February sales of new passenger cars rose 16.7 per cent in volume, to 39,096 units from 33,497 a year ago, and 22.8 per cent in retail value, to \$121,272,000 from \$98,759,000, while the volume of commercial-vehicle sales advanced 21.7 per cent, to 6,642 units from 5,459, and the value 16.0 per cent, to \$22,466,000 from \$19,369,000.

Sales of new Canadian and United States models rose 30.8 per cent in February, to 43,139 units from 32,974 a year earlier, with sales of passenger cars rising 30.9 per cent, to 36,604 units from 27,973, and commercial vehicles 30.7 per cent, to 6,535 units from 5,001. The month's sales of overseas-manufactured motor vehicles dropped sharply (56.6 per cent), to 2,599 units from 5,982, the total for passenger cars decreasing 54.9 per cent, to 2,492 units from 5,524, and for commercial vehicles 76.6 per cent, to 107 units from 458.

CONFERENCE ON MUSKEG RESEARCH

"National Implications of Organic Terrain" will be the theme of the ninth annual Conference on Muskeg Research, to be held at Laval University, Quebec, May 21 and 22. Sponsored by the Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics of the National Research Council, the meeting will deal with topics ranging from fundamental research on peat to engineering problems connected with the exploitation of organic terrain for agriculture and forestry.