

## HISTORICAL RESEARCHER TO PARIS

Mme. Louise Miville-Dechêne, a specialist in eighteenth-century historical research, left for Paris recently to search for important sources of information and to organize the microfilming of documents pertinent to the restoration of the fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island.

Mme. Miville-Dechêne received her early education in Montreal, where she obtained a B.A. degree from Marie-de-France College. She then spent a year in Paris studying political science at the Sorbonne. On her return to Canada, she was associated with both the Quebec Film Office and the Quebec Tourist Bureau. The many questions asked by visitors concerning historical sites reawakened her long-standing interest in history and led her to further studies. She obtained an M.A. in history from Laval University, and in 1963 presented a thesis, entitled "William Price, 1810-1850", on the beginnings of the Price Brothers Company, as part of the work required for a doctorate in history.

As a member of an archaeological team from Laval University, she took part in the first excavations on the site of Louisbourg in the summer of 1963.

In France her work will take her first to the National Archives in Paris and afterwards to such seaports as Toulon, Rochefort and Larochele, from which supply ships set sail for Louisbourg more than two centuries ago.

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## ECONOMIC STUDY OF ALASKA HIGHWAY

Speaking recently in Edmonton at the third annual national Northern Development Conference, Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, announced that an economic study was in progress of the implications for Canada of the paving of the Alaska Highway. "If the paving of the Alaska Highway were to be carried out", he said, "it would make necessary substantial highway relocation and reconstruction, and would therefore require extensive capital expenditure." Mr. Laing added that "it would only seem prudent that all of the benefits and costs which would accrue to Canada in the event of highway improvement should be thoroughly examined."

The Federal Government is undertaking studies of the economic impact and engineering cost of Alaska Highway improvement. The engineering study, conducted by the Department of Public Works, has been in progress for some time. The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for proceeding with the economic study and has engaged the Stanford Research Institute as consultants. It is expected that their report will be completed before the end of 1965.

Mr. Laing emphasized that the broader intention of the engineering and economic studies was to provide the kind of data that would be required when the time came to discuss the subject of cost-sharing with the United States Government, since the U.S. "has a very real interest in the Alaska Highway".

## CANADIAN SHOW HOMES IN U.K.

On October 27, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, High Commissioner for Canada in Britain, accompanied by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, the Chairman of the newly-formed British Government Housing Corporation, opened two semi-detached Canadian demonstration homes at Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire. A similar pair of houses at Up Holland, Lancashire, was opened on October 29 by a Canadian-born T.V. personality, Barbara Kelly. The final twin-unit, at Sighthill, Edinburgh, was declared opened by Mr. Duncan M. Weatherstone, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, on November 3.

### PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATION HOMES

The three pairs of houses were built to demonstrate the techniques, advantages and suitability of Canadian wood-frame house construction for the British housing programme and to promote the sale of Canadian lumber and plywood in Britain. The erection of these Canadian demonstration homes was recommended in a British Government white paper, "U.K. Housing Mission to Canada, June 1963". It stressed the high standard of finish and comfort obtained from wood-frame construction, its suitability for "on-site" or factory fabrication and the contribution it could make to British housing needs.

More than 2,000 architects, engineers, builders and mortgage and insurance company representatives have already visited the three sites, which will remain open for at least six months. One house of each pair has been finished and furnished, and the other has been partly built, with sections cut away to show construction details.

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## NATIONAL POWER NETWORK

Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of National Resources, recently announced that a contract was being awarded to a firm of consulting engineers to undertake the second phase of a study of a national power network. This phase, it is estimated, will cost about \$250,000. The second part of the study was recommended by the Federal-Provincial Working Committee, which was established to make recommendations to the federal and provincial governments on the feasibility of a national power network. The consulting engineers are expected to complete their report on Phase II in 1966. Under the accepted arrangement, in addition to the work of the consultant, the cost of which will be borne by the Federal Government, the principal utilities in each province will be heavily engaged in the engineering man-hours involved in the provision of the facts and forward-planning information that will form the basis of the consultants study and recommendations.

This study of trans-Canada grid patterns will also take into account North-South interconnections.

An advisory Committee, composed of the system-planning engineers of the utilities, has been established to work with the consultant. It will be convened shortly.

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