

RD82.8C223g

JUN 22 1959



CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

EDITORIAL AND INFORMATION DIVISION

FOR RELEASE

9-23752 ; 9-23646

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1959 Geographical Branch Field Program

Eleven teams of geographers have been assigned to the 1959 field program of the Geographical Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Most of their projects are a continuation of work from previous years.

In outlining the program today, Mines and Technical Surveys Minister Paul Comtois explained that seven projects are being carried out in northern Canada this year.

A 3,000-mile reconnaissance of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan is being made by J.B. Bird and S.H. Richard from which an outline of the physical geography of the Prairies will be prepared. Particular attention is being paid to the semi-arid areas.

More detailed studies will be carried out by R. Vicero and S.H. Richard during the rest of the summer in the areas of the South Saskatchewan River dam project. This work will involve land use mapping of irrigable areas, physiographic studies and a regional study of the greater area.

In co-operation with the Lower Mainland Planning Board of British Columbia, land use mapping begun in 1958 by A. Ulmer will be completed in the Fraser River delta area.

C.N. Forward will direct the completion of the coastline mapping in Nova Scotia this summer, and C. Raymond will finish the coastline mapping in Prince Edward Island. Land use mapping of Nova Scotia and the whole of Prince Edward Island. will be completed. This work will be facilitated by the aerial photography made of Prince Edward Island last year.

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Working from Repulse Bay, V. Sim is continuing his study of Melville Peninsula of the past two summers and is carrying out investigations of physiography and Eskimo resources and movements.

Periglacial phenomena and processes are being studied in detail by F.A. Cook in the vicinity of Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island as part of a continuing program of quantitative Arctic Studies on permafrost, patterned ground, soil movement, frost action and erosion.

Parallel studies, in part, are being initiated on Ellef Ringnes Island by D. St-Onge and K. Arnold as part of the Geographical Branch contribution to the scientific program of the Polar Continental Shelf Project.

Other studies will include physiography, glaciological investigations on the Meighen Island ice-cap, the regimen of streams and observations on the distribution, movement and nature of sea ice in the adjacent waters.

A geographical study of resource use is being made in the Mackenzie River delta for the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. This party, led by W.A. Black, will travel on the Geographical Branch schooner "Tuhlik", which is based at Aklavik, N.W.T., and will investigate the delta area from Tuktoyaktuk to Fort McPherson.

In the Great Whale River area on the east coast of Hudson Bay, a geographic survey led by G. Falconer will study the physiographic problems of the coastlands and interior, as well as the distribution of resources and native peoples.

B. Robitaille will carry out settlement studies of the posts visited by the government supply vessel "C.D. Howe" in the eastern Arctic, and R.T. Gajda will investigate possible settlement sites in Lancaster Sound, travelling aboard the icebreaker "D'Iberville."

Ottawa, June 23, 1959.