

### NEW TYPE CABLE-REPAIR SHIP

The Department of Transport is calling for tenders for construction of an icebreaking cable-repair vessel, believed to be the first ship of its kind in the world. The vessel will be 313 feet, four inches long, 60 feet in breadth and will have a loaded draft of 21 feet, six and a half inches. She will be twin-screw, with a diesel-electric propulsion system developing 9,000 shaft horsepower. It is expected the contract for construction will be let in the spring of 1962 and that the ship will be in service in 1965.

The new vessel will be operated as a unit of the Canadian Marine Service, the ship-operating branch of the Department of Transport. The cable-repair work and cable laying will be carried out for the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Eastern Arctic.

#### CONCEPTION AND DESIGN

The ship's design was conceived by the Transport Department's Shipbuilding Branch and the model tested by the National Research Council in Ottawa. The plans were prepared by the Montreal firm of Gilmore, German and Milne, naval architects, to the requirements of the Department and of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation.

The hull and machinery were designed to cope with heavy icebreaking duties. Its cable-handling facilities will make the ship capable of repairing all types of submarine cable now in use or in the ship's areas of operation.

#### MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT

The most modern types of navigational and communications equipment will be installed, including two marine radars, gyro compasses and automatic pilot, echo sounders, radio direction finder, Loran and Decca navigators, electric log, radio-telegraphy console and radio telephone.

Lifeboat transceivers will be supplied to the two workboats and low-power helicopter "homing" equipment will be provided.

The total complement of the ship will be about 100 men, including ship's crew, flight officers and engineers, cable engineers, a doctor and other officials.

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#### FUR SEAL COMMISSION MEETS

Senior fisheries administrators of four countries met in Ottawa this month to plan the future for the luxuriously-furred seals of the North Pacific Ocean, which were once threatened with extinction but are now being maintained at a healthy population level. The occasion was the fifth annual meeting of the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission, composed of representatives from Canada, Japan, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., which took place in Ottawa, February 7-9. The Commission's Scientific Committee met from January 29 to February 6.

Commissioners representing the four countries were: Canada, G.R. Clark; Japan, M. Ito; the U.S.S.R., A. Ishkov, and U.S.A., R.C. Baker. Mr. Ishkov is chairman of the Commission.

### NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Starts on the construction of new dwellings in all areas of Canada numbered 32,456 units in the fourth quarter of 1961, a rise of 1.2 per cent from the corresponding 1960 total of 32,061 units, according to advance Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures that will be contained in the December issue of "New Residential Construction". This brought the number of starts in the full year 1961 to 125,577 units, up by 15.4 per cent from the 1960 figure of 108,858 units.

Completions in all areas of Canada were little changed in the fourth quarter of 1961 at 35,198 units compared to 35,136 in the like 1960 quarter, but fell 6.6 per cent in the year to 115,608 units from 123,757. Units under construction at December 31, 1961, totalled 73,583, an increase of 11.9 per cent from the year-earlier total of 65,773 units.

#### URBAN CENTRES

Starts in urban centres of 5,000 population and over decreased 3.2 per cent in December 1961 to 6,823 units from 7,050 in December 1960, but increased 20.9 per cent in the year 1961 to 92,741 units from 76,687 in 1960. Completions in these areas were virtually unchanged in the month at 7,061 units compared to 7,098, and were down 8.1 per cent in the 12-month period to 83,148 units from 90,513. Units in various stages of construction in these centres at the end of 1961 numbered 53,195, compared to 44,975 at the end of 1960, an advance of 18.3 per cent.

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### NEW LABOUR DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Three publications dealing with wage rates, salaries, hours of work and labour legislation in Canada were recently released by Mr. Michael Start, the Minister of Labour.

The 400-page report entitled "Wage Rates, Salaries and Hours of Labour, 1960" is the forty-third in a series of annual reports covering wage rates and salaries for hundreds of occupations in 85 industries and 52 communities throughout Canada. Approximately 23,000 employers were included in the survey. The information contained in this report had been published in loose-leaf form earlier in 1961.

The second publication, "Primary Textile Industry; Wages and Hours 1960", is the eighteenth in an annual series of reports covering 270 firms in the textile industry. The data cover wage rates and hours of labour for more than 40,000 employees in a wide variety of textile occupations.

The third publication, "Labour Legislation of the Past Decade", is a review of developments in the labour-legislation field in Canada between 1951 and 1960. Prepared by the Legislation Branch, Department of Labour, the publication deals with labour standards, labour relations and trade-union legislation, safety of persons and property, workmen's compensation, equal opportunities for employment and other matters.