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CANADA EXPANDS RESEARCH IN ARCTIC WATERS

Speaking at the launching of the Canadian Hydrographic Ship "Maxwell" at Halifax on August 17, Mr. Paul Comtois, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, said that the new ship "represents the first unit in a multi-million-dollar ship-building programme which, when completed, will enable Canada to gather a store of oceanographic and hydrographic information equal to, and even surpassing, that possessed by many other nations". Mr. Comtois went on to say that the "Maxwell" would be joined in the autumn by a much larger sister-ship, the \$7 million "Hudson", and he added that plans were nearing completion for three more vessels of the same type but smaller than the "Hudson", two for the East Coast and the third for the West Coast. The "Maxwell", Mr. Comtois said, was of intermediate size and would operate at first off the south coast of Newfoundland and later off the coast of Labrador.

Turning to the more general aspects of the subject, Mr. Comtois spoke as follows:

"...The 'Maxwell' joins other ships of our Department's east coast fleet -- the 'Baffin', the 'Cartier', the 'Kapuskasing' and the 'Acadia' -- at a time when hydrographic work in Canada's coastal and inland waters is pushing ahead at an accelerated pace to keep abreast of increased demands for accurate knowledge of the country's waterways. Supplying volumes of vital information to seafarers from the four corners of the earth is a major responsibility of our Canadian Hydrographic Service.

"Perhaps you can best realize the magnitude of this task when I say that, in addition to her thousands

of miles of inland waterways, Canada has the longest coastline in the world -- some 120,000 miles. The coastal waters off this vast shoreline present a hydrographic challenge unparalleled anywhere in the world and I am proud to say that the Canadian Hydrographic Service, through a carefully planned programme, is meeting that challenge.

"As an example of this programme, I should like to draw to your attention some of the work we are doing in nearby waters, where more than half a dozen projects are under way. The 'Baffin', for instance, has completed this year's phase of a long-term programme of offshore sounding around the coast of Nova Scotia. The 'Kapuskasing' is presently engaged in extensive sounding operations in the Sable Island area as part of another long-term programme aimed at obtaining better information for navigation and fishing in the areas off the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia.

"Later this year, the 'Kapuskasing' will carry out surveys along the eastern coastal regions of Nova Scotia between Sheet Harbour and Canso.

"A shore party with headquarters at Barrington Passage is making good progress in a continuing programme of launch soundings along the Atlantic coastal waters. Another shore party is carrying out extensive survey work in the area between Sheet Harbour and Canso.

VALUE OF DATA GATHERED

"Information gathered during these projects I have mentioned, and others being carried out over

(Over)