

HUGE SEAWAY FLOATING CRANE

The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority reports that a satisfactory beginning has been made on the fabrication of some of the components of a self-propelled floating revolving crane, which will probably have the greatest lifting capacity, and certainly will be the most modern, in the country.

The crane, which is being constructed and assembled for use on the Seaway and in Montreal Harbour, will be capable of lifting a 275-ton mitre-gate leaf over the bow of its hull and rotating it at minimum radius for stowage on the after deck. It will also be capable of handling about 150 tons athwartships at radii and clearances suitable for use in loading and unloading ships in Montreal Harbour. Delivery is slated for the latter part of the navigating season of this year.

GERMAN-CANADIAN CO-OPERATION

Marine Industries Limited, Sorel, was awarded the prime contract, which is valued at \$2,520,000. Demag A.G. of Duisberg, Germany, and this company's Canadian subsidiary, Canadian Demag Limited, are associated with Marine Industries Limited in this work.

As a floating crane of this size is virtually unique in Canada, the design of its structure is being done by the German firm with special experience in this type of work. The pontoon on which the crane is mounted is being designed by Marine Industries.

Although the crane machinery and its supporting structure will be made in Germany, the pontoon, the main boom and the diesel-electric power and control installations will be of Canadian manufacture. The complete assembly will naturally be carried out at the Sorel, Quebec, plant of Marine Industries.

"CANADA WEEK" IN SEATTLE

"Canada Week" at the Seattle Universal and International Exhibition will be held from September 10 to 15, and will feature many special attractions identified with Canada. These will include a military tattoo, a dramatic production, an aerial display by the famed "Golden Hawks" of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and film showings by the National Film Board. An escort squadron of the Royal Canadian Navy will be anchored in the Port of Seattle during the week, and concerts will be given by the RCAF band.

More than 600 members of the RCN, the Canadian army, the RCAF and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will participate in the tattoo, which will take place each evening in the "Century 21" stadium. It will include brass and pipe bands, the latter in full Scottish regalia, precision marching, and guard mounting, as performed today and in former times. The RCMP Musical Ride will be performed.

The Comédie Canadienne, of Montreal, will stage the play "Bousille and the Just", in which the author, Gratien Gélinas, will appear. The Vancouver Chamber Orchestra of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, with Lois Marshall as soloist, will give a concert during or just before "Canada Week".

A requirement of the crane is that it be able to carry out any two of three motions (hoisting, luffing or slewing) at the same time. Another requirement is that the length of the hull be not more than 200 feet and the width not more than 75 feet, the latter so that it may pass through the Seaway locks.

The crane will be equipped with two Voith-Schneider cycloidal propellers, one at each end of the pontoon. In addition to their principal function of propelling the crane through still waters under normal wind conditions, these propellers will provide the utmost in manoeuvrability. They will not have the capacity of handling the crane without tug assistance in fast-flowing waters such as the St. Mary's Current in Montreal Harbour.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The crane will have a loud hailing system installed to improve and simplify communication between the cranimaster, the crew, the crane operator and the longshoremen or crew working on board ships from which cargo is being unloaded. The system will also be useful for communication between the crane and the towing tug.

The crane will operate along the Seaway between Montreal and Iroquois, Ontario, where the most westerly of the seven locks of the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section is located. It will be subject to the rules and regulations of Lloyd's Register of Shipping and will be surveyed for the issue of Lloyd's highest "Certificate of Class" for hull, machinery, and equipment to Class 100 A1 floating crane for restricted service in the St. Lawrence Seaway, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River with Class 3 strength for ice.

JANUARY IMPORTS

Commodities imported into Canada in January reached a new record value for the month of \$493 million, an increase of 14.3 per cent from last year's corresponding total of \$431,200,000, and up 9.2 per cent from the previous January peak of \$451,600,000 set in 1957, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Part of the increased value reflects the difference in the exchange value of the Canadian dollar. Another part reflects the inclusion in January this year of imports of military aircraft from the United States, valued at \$12,600,000, financed under mutual defence arrangements.

The value of January imports from the United States increased 18.6 per cent to \$353,700,000 from \$298,300,000 in January last year, while the value from the United Kingdom fell 6.7 per cent to \$43,100,000 from \$46,200,000. The month's imports from all other Commonwealth countries advanced 21.2 per cent to \$22,300,000 from \$18,400,000, and the total from all other countries as a group rose 8.2 per cent to \$73,900,000 from \$68,300,000.