

NEW NAVAL VESSELS: Contracts have been awarded to five Canadian shipyards for the construction of four coastal minesweepers and a trawler-type gate vessel for the Royal Canadian Navy, it was announced on September 7 by the Minister of National Defence Mr. Claxton.

This brings to nine the number of ships now on order for the R.C.N. and completes the Navy's current new construction programme. As has already been announced, three anti-submarine ships especially designed to combat the modern fast submarine are to be built in yards at Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax, while the keel of a naval icebreaker is shortly to be laid at Sorel, P.Q.

Contracts for the minesweepers have been placed with the Saint John Drydock Company Ltd., East Saint John, N.B.; Davie Shipbuilding and Repairing Company Ltd., Lawson, Levis, P.Q.; Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Port Arthur, Ontario, and Victoria Machinery Depot Company Limited, Victoria. The gate vessel is to be built by George T. Davie and Sons Limited, Lawson, Levis, P.Q.

MID-1951 COMPLETION.

While basically of British design, the minesweepers ordered for the R.C.N. will be the first of their class to be built. It is expected the first ship will be completed in mid-1951.

The vessels, of 370 tons displacement, will have aluminum frames and decks and a wooden outer shell. The method of construction, particularly where it involves the use of aluminum, is new to Canadian yards and requires a high degree of skill and workmanship.

They will have twin screws driven by two Diesel engines. The complement of each will consist of approximately five officers and 35 men.

The gate vessel, entirely Canadian in conception and design, will be the first of a type of ship which, it is hoped, may be adopted for commercial use in the Canadian fishing industry.

Recognizing a need for a Canadian-built fishing trawler, naval designers patterned the gate vessel accordingly. At the same time, the basic hull design is such that conversion of the vessel to other requirements can be undertaken without difficulty.

In the Navy, the gate vessel will be employed in peacetime as an auxiliary to the fleet and as such will perform a diversity of duties. In wartime she would assume her primary role, which is the operation of gates at the entrances to defended harbors. Alternatively, the vessel could be used for minesweeping duties if required.

The gate vessel will be of steel construction, will be 125 feet in length and will have

a complement of three officers and 20 men.

Both the minesweepers and the gate vessel will have alternating current electrical systems, thus conforming with the most modern naval practice.

RESEARCH COUNCIL REPORT: Progress of industrial and scientific research throughout Canada is reflected in the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the National Research Council, which has just been issued. The report appears as a bilingual edition, written in simple, non-technical style, so that everybody who reads it has a chance to gain some insight into the way in which the National Research Council serves the nation.

The newest achievements of the Atomic Energy Project are summarized; then follows an outline of the hundreds of investigations carried out in the Council's laboratory Divisions: Applied Biology, Building Research, Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, and Radio and Electrical Engineering.

The research programme of the Division of Medical Research is also discussed at length, although it is entirely extra-mural, most of its work being done in Canadian medical schools.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The Division of Information Services stresses the importance of two of its sections: (1) "The Technical Information Service, which was set up (in 1945) to aid the development of manufacturing efficiency by answering technical questions for industry..." and (11) the library, which "pending the development of a National Library in Canada is trying to provide some of the services which the science branch of such a library might give".

The value of Associate Committees (of which there are at the moment about thirty), Scholarships, and Assisted Research Grants ("awarded to heads of science departments for the purchase of unusual equipment and the employment of junior assistants...") is briefly described.

The pages of the Financial Statement are followed by explanatory notes regarding Canadian Patents and Development Limited and by the first annual report of this new Crown Company. "The primary purpose of this Company is to make available to industry through licensing arrangements the inventions, new processes and improvements in processes, developed by the scientific workers of the Council".

Finally there is a reprint of the Research Council Act of 1924 and its amendments of 1946. A Table of Organization completes the volume.