

A special mess is provided for the stevedore amidships and there are recreation rooms for crew, stevedores, landing craft crew and key personnel.

The vessel has been designed to carry 35 tons of refrigerated cargo in the hold and 78 tons of reserve oil fuel for supply to other ships engaged in northern operations.

Principal particulars are as follows: Length, overall 251' 6"; length, B.P. 229'; breadth, moulded 42'; depth, moulded 21' 6"; load draft 12'; total brake horse power 2,000; range at 11 knots 5,000 nautical miles.

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### ALBERTA FARM WEATHER FORECASTS

For the third successive year, Alberta farmers will be able to plan their operations a few days ahead, thanks to a special Agricultural Weather Forecast, prepared by the Alberta Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Edmonton Meteorological Office. The forecast is presented over 23 Alberta radio stations five days a week, Monday through Friday, from June to September.

A survey conducted last summer indicated that approximately 74 of the farmers contacted listened to the forecast.

The forecasts are prepared each morning, using current weather maps and U.S. weather bureau forecasts. Current agricultural data from a variety of sources throughout the entire province is gathered, and incorporated into the weather report to provide an agriculturally slanted forecast. In addition to the regular one - and two-day forecasts, which are normally available, a third-day prediction is issued on a regular basis. Whenever the weather pattern is favourable, weather for a fourth and possibly a fifth day is predicted also.

In such farm-slanted forecasts it is imperative that information regarding agricultural operations in each forecast area be considered. This information is obtained through (1) direct contact with farmers, (2) perusal of crop reports issued by the Department of Agriculture and Prairie Grain Companies, (3) reports from University and Department of Agriculture staff who travel widely in the course of their work, and (4) phone calls and discussions with District Agriculturists and Schools of Agriculture staff.

The forecasts begin with a "Farm Weather Synopsis", in which reference is made to expected weather conditions for as far as five days into the future. Included too is specific information of particular interest to the farmer such as statistical probabilities for rainfall in a given area during the haying season and expected low relative-humidity readings during the harvest season. Comments on the weather conditions for the current day are included in this synopsis. The second section of the forecast contains a regional forecast for the following day, with an outlook for a third day, and is broken down for the Peace River region, the Parkland region and the Prairie region.

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### ATLANTIC FIGHT RECALLED

"Battle of the Atlantic" Sunday will be observed across Canada on May 5, in memory of those who served, and those who gave their lives, in the war at sea. Church parades and special services will be held in naval commands and establishments from coast to coast, and in ships at sea.

May 5 will also mark the opening of Navy Week in Canada under the auspices of the Navy League of Canada. For the past 21 years the Navy League has sponsored Navy Week for the purpose of focusing attention on maritime affairs and the importance of the sea to Canada's security.

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### COLLEGE FOR NWT STUDENTS

The Northwest Territories Council has agreed that students from the Territories require special consideration because their university training must be taken outside the Territories. Accordingly, it has approved a support programme, effective July 1, of outright assistance to all NWT students attending universities and colleges, to cover tuition fees, transportation and incidental expenses, and loans, where required, to cover board and lodging.

In urging the support programme, the Council's advisory committee noted that no expenditures were made to establish and maintain universities in the Territories. For this reason, the Committee felt that funds that might otherwise be applied to this purpose could be used to assist students to attend universities elsewhere.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claimants for unemployment insurance numbered 720,500 on February 28, little changed from the previous month-end total of 703,100 or from the February 28, 1962, figure of 718,700.

Some 55 per cent of the claimants had been on continuous claim more than four weeks but not more than 13 weeks as of February 28, 1963. This reflects the heavy influx of claims in December, together with the continuation of reduced employment opportunities.

A total of 188,500 initial and renewal claims were filed in local offices across Canada during February. This is a decline of some 130,000 from January and about 17,000 from February 1962.

The average weekly estimate of beneficiaries was 591,900 for February, in comparison with 536,900 for January and 590,400 for February 1962. Benefit payments totalled \$58.7 million during February, \$58.6 million during January and \$58.0 million for February 1962. The average weekly payment was \$24.81 in February, \$24.79 in January and \$24.56 in February 1962.