



# AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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**3 Anti-Sub. Vessels:** Contracts for the construction of the first three anti-submarine escort vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy have been awarded to Halifax Shipyards Limited, Halifax; Canadian Vickers Limited, Montreal, and Burrard Drydock Company, Limited, North Vancouver, B.C., it was announced on July 24 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

While final details of the contracts have not yet been negotiated it is expected the vessels will cost approximately \$8,000,000 each, the announcement stated.

Commencement of a naval anti-submarine escort ship-building program was first announced by Mr. Claxton in June of this year. At that time he stated every effort would be made to advance the work without delay and that it was hoped keels for the first three vessels would be laid down by the end of the year or early in 1950.

The new anti-submarine escort ships will be classed as major war vessels, and as such are the first to be designed completely in Canada. Their primary purpose will be the detection and destruction of modern fast submarines. They will be the first to be built anywhere to meet the new requirements.

In function they replace the frigates and corvettes of the Second World War. Like the latter vessels, their design has been worked out so that in the event of an emergency it may be possible to produce them rapidly and in quantity.

There the comparison ends. In speed, manoeuvrability, weapons and habitability the new ships of the R.C.N. will fulfill all the requirements of their class for modern sea warfare.

The escort vessels will have steel hulls and aluminum will be used to a certain extent in superstructures and bridges. Steam turbines driving twin screws will provide a speed considerably in excess of that of the frigate.

**Head Of U.K. Dollar Export Board Visits Ottawa:** Britain's newly-organized Dollar Export Board was called the "most powerful industrial body ever created at any time" by Sir Graham Cunningham, Chairman of the Board who arrived in Ottawa July 24, the Canadian Press reported.

He will explain the organization and aims of the Board to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, the report continues.

Travelling with Sir Graham was Defence Minister Dedman of Australia, returning home after Commonwealth dollar talks in Great Britain.

Sir Graham said the power of the Dollar Export Board rested in the fact that it was a non-political organization appointed by British industry, bankers, merchants and organized labour.

He said the Labour Government had no voice in the organization but sponsored its creation.

The aim of the Board is to try to rectify the present dollar-sterling balance by earning more dollars, saving more and encouraging the spending of more dollars in Great Britain.

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