

ARCTIC SHIPPING PROGRAMME

The Department of Transport's northern navigational operations are to get under way earlier than usual this year. Details of schedules, cargoes and operations were discussed when 14 captains of department ships met in Ottawa March 28-29.

The larger icebreakers, the CMS "John A. Macdonald", CMS "Labrador" and CMS "d'Iberville", will carry out the resupply of Eureka, Alexandra Fiord, Resolute and other points and will then engage in hydrographic and oceanographic work in co-operation with the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. In addition, the "Labrador", leaving Montreal early in July, will be joined by the "N.B. McLean" and the "Montcalm" to open up Hudson Strait and the shipping lanes into Churchill. The opening date of the Churchill shipping season will be July 22.

The only Western Arctic icebreaker, the "Camsell", will leave Victoria, B.C., about June 15, while the fleet of northern supply vessels - "Puffin", "Raven", "Eider", "Skua", "Gannet", "Auk" and "Nannok" - will begin their operations about the same time, a month earlier than last year.

The CMS "C.D. Howe" will again be charged with the Eastern Arctic patrol. The vessel will leave Montreal on July 4 and, before returning to Quebec City on October 10, will assist the Departments of National Health and Welfare, Northern Affairs and others in carrying out their various projects for the population of the Eastern Arctic.

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STRATFORD FILM FESTIVAL, 1961

Five feature films from as many countries, plus an assortment of short subjects, have already been entered in the Stratford Film Festival, John Hayes, director, announced recently. In all, 48 countries were approached with requests for films of exceptional merit, Mr. Hayes said. It is hoped that many of them will be represented at the Avon Theatre when the Film Festival opens on August 21. During the two-week run of the Festival, which continues until September 2, showings will be twice a day except on the opening day, when there is no matinee.

The Film Festival is particularly pleased to announce that among other top feature films Czechoslovakia's much-praised "Romeo, Juliette et les Ténèbres" will be shown. This tragedy of lost love under the Nazi occupation of Prague, in which a young student hides a Jewish girl out of kindness and then finds himself falling in love with her, has been singled out by critics for its excellent characterizations. It won the "Golden Shell", top award of the San Sebastien Festival.

Another award winner on the Stratford schedule is the French "Les Jeux de l'Amour" directed by the celebrated Philippe de Broca.

A "New Wave" comedy, it is set in Paris and features the young comic actor Jean-Pierre Cassel. This film won the award of the "Silver Bear" at the Berlin Film Festival last year.

EASTERN EUROPE

Hungary's feature-film entry is "Be Good Till Death", whose child star, Laci Tóth, received an honourable mention for his portrayal of the central character. A film concerned with children is also Yugoslavia's choice - "The Missing Pencil".

One of the highlights of the Festival should be the Greek entry, "A Matter of Dignity" starring Ellie Lambetti.

Another feature film is "I like Mike", from Israel, which is also an entry in the coming Cannes Film Festival.

Requests have also been made for the best of recent short subjects, and several have so far been obtained. They include entries from the United Kingdom ("Seawards the Great Ships"), and several cartoon subjects from Czechoslovakia and Poland. From New Zealand, participating for the first time, comes a documentary on the International Geophysical Year. Denmark is sending "A City Called Copenhagen".

The Stratford Film Festival, first of its kind in North America when it opened in 1956, shows the best films currently being produced before they are seen in the commercial theatres. This year, more than ever, countries are sending films specifically requested by the Festival directors.

Other notable films for which the Festival is at the moment negotiating are Japan's "No Greater Love", a controversial prisoner-of-war film, Germany's "Kirmes", and the Netherland's "Fiery Love", a vivid pageant of sights and sounds in Dutch Guiana. This film won the most distinguished documentary award at the Berlin Festival. The Berlin Festival's top award went to "Lazarillo de Tormes" a Spanish feature entry, and it is hoped that this film, with its splendid pictorial use of Spanish landscapes and the old streets of Salamanca and Toledo, will also be seen at the Stratford Festival. Indonesia has been asked for "Tiga Dara", currently entered in the Venice Festival, and Mexico for "Macario", seen last year at Cannes and Edinburgh.

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ESKIMO AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Industrial development, housing, education and health were among the topics discussed by the Eskimo Affairs Committee when they met in Ottawa on April 10 and 11. R.G. Robertson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, presided at this twelfth annual meeting of the Committee. Other members involved in the discussions were B.G. Sivertz, Director, and other officials of the Northern Administration Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, representatives of the