

fir. The high-priced and attractive Scots pine is gaining in popularity and makes up more than half Ontario's Christmas tree exports.

The book notes an increase in managed Christmas tree plantations resulting from the greater value of Christmas trees, a scarcity of wild trees and an expanding and more discriminating consumer market. If Canadian growers continue to produce a high-quality tree that will sell at a reasonable price, they could gain a larger share of the 45,000,000-trees-a-year U.S. market.

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CANADIANS FOR "BRITANNIA"

With the approval of Her Majesty the Queen, the ship's company of Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia will contain representatives of the Royal Canadian Navy during her visit to Canada in 1959 for the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The contingent will consist of two officers and 15 men. In order to fill the required vacancies in the Britannia's complement as they arise, RCN personnel will join in two drafts.

The first will join in January before the Britannia's world cruise with His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the second in May before the yacht sails for Canada.

The first draft will fly to the United Kingdom at the end of December. It will consist of six men, three from the Atlantic Command and three from the Pacific Command.

Two officers and a second draft of nine men will join the Britannia at Portsmouth in May.

Selection of RCN personnel is now being made.

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NEW BRIDGE FOR SEAWAY

The high-level suspension bridge crossing the South Channel of the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall Island was opened at inauguration ceremonies held at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 1. The bridge connects the United States mainland and Cornwall Island in Canada and provides highway access between Cornwall, Ont. and Massena, N.Y.

The structure costing some \$7,000,000, is 5,000 feet in overall length. It has two traffic lanes and a sidewalk for pedestrians. The bridge crosses the International Boundary Line and the St. Lawrence Seaway channel and gives an overhead clearance of 120 feet for ships.

Canada's St. Lawrence Seaway Authority built the substructure of the bridge and the United States entity, The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation built the superstructure. United States bridge design was by D.B. Steinman of New York and Canada's design work was done by the late Dr. P.L. Pratley of Montreal. Contractor for the sub-

structure was McNamara Construction Company of Toronto and the American Bridge Company of Cleveland was the contractor for the superstructure.

Main suspension span of the new bridge is 3,840 feet long. It is carried on two 232-foot-high towers, each standing on two piers in the river course. The new bridge will replace the old South Channel bridge of the Roosevelt International Bridge, some 1,300 feet downstream, which has been removed.

During the summer of 1958, crossing of the South Channel has been provided by two ferries. Operation of these ferries will be discontinued with opening of the bridge.

It has been announced that a new bridge is to be built across the North Channel between Cornwall and Cornwall Island. This will complete the new facilities for this international crossing of the St. Lawrence River.

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OIL COMPANIES IN NORTH

Four major oil companies were successful tenderers in a competition for Exploratory Oil and Gas Permits covering a two-million-acre area in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, according to an announcement made recently by Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

This will involve an expenditure of more than six million dollars over a nine-year period, and brings to over 75,000,000 acres the total area under Exploratory Permit in the Northwest and Yukon Territories.

At the competition, which closed on November 17, 1958, the successful tenderers were:

- Texaco Exploration Company,
- Shell Oil Company of Canada, Limited,
- Amerada Petroleum Corporation; and
- Great Plains Development Company of Canada Ltd.

The permit areas are located south of the boundary of the Peel Plateau Reservation, about 75 miles northwest of Norman Wells. The wide interest in the oil potential of the area resulted in 195 tenders for the 40 parcels included in the competition. The highest bonus received for an individual parcel was \$17,784.04 and the total amount received in bonuses was \$444,800.71.

The companies are required to expend over \$750,000 in the first three years of exploration for oil and gas; \$2,520,000 during the second three-year period; and \$3,150,000 in the final three years of the term of the permits.

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HOCKEY TEAM SUCCESSFUL

Kelowna Packers, of British Columbia, were given a rousing welcome on their return from a five-game hockey series in Moscow, in which they lead by one game. The Packers also won against Swedish teams, two games to one.