

Canada's Oceanographic Fleet Underway

The C. H. S. Maxwell, first of Canada's new multi-million dollar oceanographic and hydrographic fleet, was launched last week by Mrs. Paul Comtois, wife of Mines and Technical Surveys Minister Comtois, in a ceremony at the Halifax shipyards of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Ltd.

Following the launching, Mr. and Mrs. Comtois and other officials of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys visited the \$4,000,000 Bedford Institute of Oceanography now under construction at nearby Dartmouth and scheduled for completion in the fall of 1962.

The Maxwell, specially designed for inshore survey work, particularly along the more rugged and isolated regions of Canada's eastern seaboard, is expected to be in operation this fall. She carries a crew of 20, has a range of more than 2,000 miles and a top

coastal waters and conducted the first detailed survey of the coasts along which the Maxwell will work.

The Bedford Institute, a completely integrated unit designed specifically for the study of the marine sciences, will, on completion, permit acceleration of an extensive oceanographic research program being carried out by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

A major portion of this program involves the study of Canada's continental shelf which extends from her shores into three oceans over an estimated 1,500,000 square miles.

Eight-Year Case Settled

Eight years ago, John Gauthier, 40, was committed to trial

The Bedford Institute will be graphy and will employ some 300 equipped with the most up-to-oceanographers, hydrographers, date laboratory facilities for the submarine geologists and other study of all phases of oceano-scientific personnel.



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ticularly along the more rugged and isolated regions of Canada's eastern seaboard, is expected to be in operation this fall. She carries a crew of 20, has a range of more than 2,000 miles and a top speed of over 12 knots. The ship is 115 feet long with a 26-foot beam and is being built at a cost of just over \$450,000.

Mr. Comtois said the Maxwell's first survey job will probably be off the south coast of Newfoundland. Later, she will carry out an extensive sounding program off the Labrador coast. Although primarily a hydrographic vessel, the Maxwell is equipped with a small laboratory for oceanographic research.

The ship is named after the late Staff Commander W. F. Maxwell of the Royal Navy who, prior to establishment of the Canadian Hydrographic Service, was responsible for charting Canada's
