

New Ship's Keel Laid At Launching Ceremony

Montreal, Aug. 19 (CP).—Workmen at the United Shipyards aimed their sights tonight at the ship-building records of Henry Kaiser, United States builder, after breaking all Canadian marks by sending three 10,000-ton steel freighters down the ways within four hours, placing one of them in the water in the record time of 39 days. The previous 47-day keel-to-launching record was held by a Vancouver shipyard.

And it was a Vancouver man, H. R. McMillan, director of wartime merchant shipping, who watched his hometown record tossed to the four winds from a shipyard which a few months ago was a marshy swamp. The three ships were christened Fort Moose, Fort Covington and Fort Romaine.

Not content with their achievement, John Rennie, shipyard manager, said his firm was out to beat another Pacific coast mark, that of placing a ship in commission in 89 days. Rennie hopes to do it in about 59 days.

Efforts, he said, were also underway to turn out the most economical ship ever produced in Canada, which would be the most economical in North America, as ships could be built much cheaper here.

"We don't intend to do this by cheap labor," he said. "Far from it. Our hope is that our objective can be reached by just a little more aid from our employees. It can be done."

Mrs. G. C. Clarke, wife of a shipyard official, sent the Fort Moose, the first of the ships, on the way. An hour later the Fort Covington, with Mrs. F. P. Shearwood breaking

the traditional bottle over the massive prow, dipped into the water.

Who sponsored the Fort Romaine was a bit of a mystery, but officially Mrs. John Rennie, wife of the shipyard manager did the honors. Surrounding her as she smashed the bottle on the bow was a band of Indians from nearby Caughnawaga in full battle regalia. There were Indian squaws, both young and old, and a few papooses led by their parents.

It was a big day for Chief Chief-tain, who said his name was Saskatchewan . . . Julius Jacobs in English. One of the workmen quipped—"He's the only Indian Chief I ever saw with a white collar and tie." The chief just grinned.

Chief Julius led his warriors in a mighty war whoop as the boat began her slide into the water, but not a reporter got a note of his launching address. . . . He gave it all in his native Iroquois tongue.

When spectators returned for the final launching they were amazed to find a complete keel . . . all 465 feet of it . . . firmly in place on the slipway that held the Fort Moose less than two hours before. One of them asked if Henry Kaiser was hiding somewhere in the yard.

High on her grey-painted hull the Fort Romaine carried the banner, "The Record Breaker. . . . East Beats West," and as she slipped into the water, still another banner swung into place on the slipway with the words, "We've Beat the West. . . . Kaiser is Next."

Wartime merchant shipping officials said the triple launching brought Canada's output of 10,000 ton merchantmen to 200 since the outbreak of war.

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