CORVETTE AND ALGERINE TYPES TO BE BROUGHT HERE FOR EQUIPPING OF HULLS

Craft Will Be Towed to Hamilton For Installation of Boilers, Etc.

USE BAY FRONT LAND

Harbour Board Warehouses Taken Over-Employ Many Men

Escort vessels of the corvette and Algerine type are to be completed in Hamiltor and the important develop ment program will be started immediately on a 17-acre site in the Wellington street and Ferguson avenue area which the Federal Government is leasing from Hamilton Har bour Commission. Severa. hundred men will be employed in the new war project and the large warehouses of the commission will be used as a fitting-out shop. The hulls will be floated into the Wellington street slip from Toronto. Collingwood, Kingston, Midland, Port Arthur and other shipbuilding centres and most of the machinery, boilers, guns, etc., will be in-stalled in Hamilton. The fin-ished vessels will proceed from the local port as fullyequipped units, down the St. Lawrence for escort duty on the sea lanes.

Speeds Up Production

The entire project is under the Department of Munitions and Supply and the purpose of the undertaking is to expedite the outfitting of the vessels which play so im-portant a part in the war effort. The arrangement extends the facilities of the Toronto Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., officials in Ottawa ex-plained to-day. The authorities in making the selection were impressed with the many advantages the local port offered and other influencing factors were the availability of railway sidings for the shipment of materials and street car service for the large force of workers. Both the Wellington street dock and the revetment wall will be used and the facilities are considered ideal. Requirements of the huge machine shop will be supplied

by several of the local plants. The great bulk of materials required are produced in this city or nearby centres. The undertaking will be under the management of Carter-Halls-Aldringer Co., Ltd.

Harbour Commission

Members of the Hamilton Harbour Commission recently completed negotiations with Ottawa officials, but there are still some minor details to be adjusted, it was reported, C. V. Langs, K.C., chairman; A. G. Gaul and Theo McCombs, K.C., commissioners, and A. R. Bell, harbourmaster, went to the capital to discuss the important matter and Ellis Corman, M.P., Wentworth, former harbour commissioner, co-operated.

Authorities have stressed the importance of an early start and representatives of the Government are expected in the city almost immediately. The Dominion Government is financing the whole project through a crown company.

Wellington Street Slip

The property, which the Government will hold for the duration of the war, parallels and includes the Wellington street slip, running north and south for a distance of 1,100 feet, and extends from the end of the Wellington street dock westerly to Ferguson avenue a distance of 650 feet, the square comprising 17 acres in all.

Included are the two brick warehouses of the Hamilton Harbour Commission, with space of 40,000 square feet, and they will be converted into fitting-out shops. They will also be used for storage of certain materials required in the shipbuilding enterprise.

In some cases only the bare, shell-like hulls will be sent here. They will be floated in and the work of fitting them out will be a new war effort of paramount importance.

Must Vacate Premises

It will be necessary for the Harbour Commission to vacate its present Wellington street warehouses and at present they are stored to capacity. Because of the urgency of the demand for the vessels, the commissioners have been asked to make immediate arrangements to locate elsewhere, and efforts are now being made to find suitable storage facilities for the hundreds of tons of freight on hand. Negotia-tions are under way, and the commissioners expect to be able to start transferring the freight so the Government's plans will not be interfered with. It was reported to-day that business would be carried on as usual by the commission, although inconvenience will result, but the shipbuilding scheme is of such importance that the commissioners are doing everything in their power to expedite matters. The Catharine street warehouse of the commission is still available for the regular business, but it is also well filled.

149 WAR EUROPEAN 1939 CANADA SHIPPING SHIPBUILDING

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