

## Financial Year For N.S. Described As Satisfactory

HALIFAX (CP)—Nova Scotia had a record revenue of \$112,220,681 in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1963. Revenue was more than \$2,000,000 above estimates, according to the government's public accounts tabled in the legislature here.

Finance Minister Smith described it as "one of the more satisfactory financial years the province has experienced."

Total expenditures amounted to \$88,072,150, about \$5,000,000 less than expected.

The province had a net revenue surplus of 129,507 after using \$3,500,000 for a university assistance fund, \$2,700,000 for capital expenditures out of current revenue and transferring \$2,500,000 to the hospital reserve fund.

Mr. Smith said one of the most satisfactory features was a \$4,800,000 decrease in Nova Scotia's net direct debt, which stood at \$168,900,000 at the end of fiscal 1963.

**NOT A TREND**  
However, he said he did not think "this indicates a trend, as it seems to be due to a number of favorable factors which are not of a recurring nature."

One factor was payment from the federal government of \$2,700,000 as a result of recalculation of payment due from tax-sharing agreements for the five-year period ended March 31, 1962. The province expects an additional \$5,500,000 under new tax sharing agreements approved in Ottawa last November.

Another factor, he said, was an unexpected increase in the yield from the hospital tax which produced nearly \$1,000,000 more than the estimated revenue of \$15,600,000.

Mr. Smith said his department's experience indicates

that the 1962-63 increase in hospital tax revenue was "abnormal and cannot be relied on in the future."

**BIGGEST SOURCE**  
The 19-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax, the biggest revenue source aside from federal grants, produced \$460,000 more than estimated for a total of \$19,700,000.

Mr. Smith said that the yield from this tax also increased more rapidly than usual.

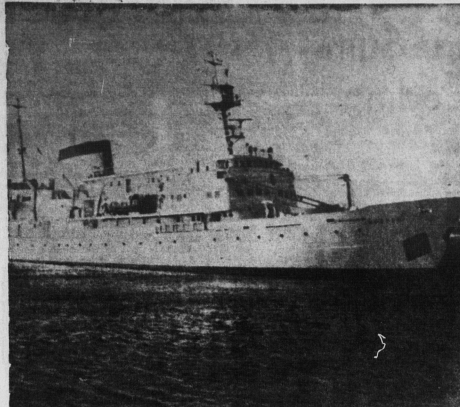
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## NEW SCIENTIFIC VESSEL COMMISSIONED

Canada's new 7,000-ton oceanographic research vessel, the Hudson, has been commissioned in Halifax. The vessel, of 4,800 tons displacement, was built by the Saint

John Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Ltd. Saint John, N.B. It will work for the departments of mines and technical surveys at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

at Dartmouth, N.S. Crutching range is 15,000 nautical miles and top speed better than 17 knots.

(CP Wirephoto)

## Leningrad Commemorates Hour German Blockade Was Broken

By PRESTON GROVER  
LENNINGRAD (AP)—At the time the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, people of this city were eating hides, dogs, cats, rats, grass, glue, pine needles—anything at all to remain alive in one of the worst stages of modern history.

Now, 20 years after it ended, the city commemorates the hour that the German blockade was broken by attacks from within and from outside.

Before the blockade ended, a third of the population had starved to death, 632,253 people by official count. Disease had little part in it. They starved.

Dying cold and alone in bed, falling by night in the snow in the streets, or on the threshold of the factories they tried to reach to perform their daily tasks and earn their ration cards.

To the people who survived, it seems incredible now that they did it.

The Germans aided by the Finns, threw a blockade around Leningrad in the cold fall of 1941 and twisted it so tight that for weeks and months all but the tiniest trickle of food was shut off.

**EPIC OF SUFFERING**  
Finally a thin dribble of food, gasoline and other supplies began coming in over a road across the ice of Lake Ladoga, where the Russians held a narrow beach head. The story of that road itself is an epic of suffering, disaster and sheer human determination. Trucks loaded with starving people being evacuated across the lake in the night plunged through hidden shell holes, dumping scores of people into icy water from which they were too weak

to scramble. Survivors around them were too weak to pull them out.

That is how it was. "I came here to talk to some of the people who had come through it. The story of that siege, known to every Russian, hardly saw the light of day in the West during the war. A certain amount was written about it, but what chance had it to make the front pages of the world's newspapers against the dramatic battle of London?"

Officials rapidly cut rations. The army at the front had to be fed first.

**BOILED COWHIDE**  
An employee of Intourist, who was 14 at the time, said his grandfather once returned with a cowhide.

"We burned the hair off, then grandmother boiled it for hours on the little stove. We all huddled in the kitchen. After several hours of boiling the hide turned into a sort of jelly. When it was cooled we ate it. It was very good. At least it seemed so then."

"Every morning when we went out, there were dead people in the streets," he said.

Other survivors told the same story.

Finally a truck route across the ice of Lake Ladoga was worked out, but it was a constant hazard. The Germans shelled the road and bombed it. The route had to be changed often, and it was not easy, for huge snowdrifts had to be moved. It was almost impossible to find people with strength enough to stay out on the ice to shovel away the snow.

Among the relics of the Leningrad siege is a tiny diary of a 10-year-old girl, Tanya Savich.

It is no Anne Frank diary. It records only deaths.

The little notebook has an alphabetical index, like a small dictionary. Under the Russian

shipped out much vital machinery ahead of the Germans, and more than 600,000 people, and even some food.

When the besieging armies finally closed in, in mid-September, 1941, the city had supplies of food for hardly a month for its 2,000,000 people.

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## Oil Sands Plan Is Recommended

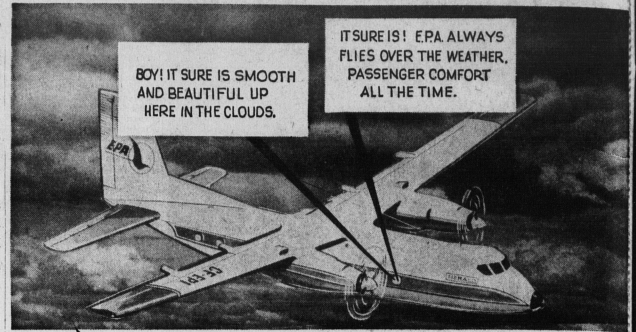
CALGARY, CP—Development of the vast Athabasca Oil Sands appeared in the offering Friday as the Alberta Oil and Gas Commission recommended approval of an amended recovery scheme.

If the recommendation is adopted by the Alberta government, Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. will be authorized to extract 45,000 barrels of crude oil a day from the northeastern Alberta sands, estimated by the board to contain 625,000,000 barrels of crude.

The health department was the third highest spender with about \$20,200,000.

The highest spending department was a education which spent a record \$25,800,000, about \$1,600,000 more than the previous record year.

The highways department with record spending of \$25,473,000 followed a close second. This department's spending was below the estimates.



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