

Quintuplets to Make Quintuple Launching

For the first time in their lives the Dionne quints will leave Canada next May when the five girls pay a visit to Superior, Wisconsin, where they will each christen one of five ships built by the United States Maritime Commission for Britain under lease-lend.

Premier Conant announced in the Legislature yesterday that the United States Secretary of State had requested that the famous children be permitted to attend the launching ceremony and officiate at the christening May 9. Each ship will be named after one of the quintts.

Following Mr. Conant's announcement a representative of the builders, Walter Butler Shipbuilders Inc., gave the added information that the "Quint Fleet" would bear the names of Marie Dionne, Emelie Dionne, Cecile Dionne, Annette Dionne and Yvette Dionne.

The Dionne children have made trips to Toronto, one on the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen in 1939, and the other last year when they took part in the Victory Loan campaign. But they never have been out of the Dominion.

"In view of the splendid contribution to the shipping problem of the Allied causes that these ships will make," said Mr. Conant, and in view of the spirit of co-operation under which they have been built by the United States Marine Commission for British use, the Government, following negotiations by Mr. Hepburn

and other interested parties, is glad to co-operate in every possible way and to concur in the decision of Mr. and Mrs. Dionne to participate in this international gesture of goodwill.

An Unusual Event.

"This will be an unusual event where five ships built by the American Government for use in the British Navy, are to be christened by the five most famous children in the world, residents of our own Province of Ontario. Each child will christen a separate vessel, all five being launched simultaneously. Members of the Ontario Government and other officials will be invited to attend, along with members and officials of the United States Government."

W. J. Stewart (Prog. Con., Parkdale) asked the Premier what language the children would use.

"Will they speak in one language, or in both?" he queried.

There were cries of "Oh! Oh!" from the members.

"I am sorry that question was interjected," replied the Premier. "I am able to say this: The children will sing the American National Anthem in English, at least."

The matter was dropped with this reply.

The quintts will sell their autographs before and after the launchings, and the proceeds will go to charity. It is planned to bring the children back to Ontario a few hours after the christenings.