

on November 6, 1967, resulted in higher customs duties on some imported products. Based on traditional practice, these increases had been collected on a provisional basis pending Parliamentary passage of legislation to implement them.

Mr. Benson said that, since the twenty-seventh Parliament had been dissolved before this legislation had been passed, the Department of National Revenue was suspending collection of the increases in customs duties, effective April 24, 1968, pending action by the next Parliament, and would collect duties on the imports involved at the former rates.

Mr. Benson said the Government intended to ask the next Parliament to enact legislation implementing both the reductions and the increases, effective from the dates originally proposed in the tariff resolutions submitted to the last session in Parliament.

AID TO WEST AFRICA

Canada proposes to provide \$11,300,000 to finance foreign-exchange costs of a major electrical-transmission project in West Africa. The project, which involves the construction of a hydroelectric transmission-line connecting Ghana, Togo and Dahomey, and the installation of two generators in the Volta River power-station at Akosombo, Ghana, will be the largest undertaken by Canada under its aid-Africa programme and the first to encompass both Commonwealth and *Francophone* countries.

Installation of the two generators will complete the huge Volta River project, which has been a development showpiece in Africa since it came into operation in 1965. The 440-foot high dam, which stretches 2,200 feet across the Volta River valley in southeast Ghana, creates the biggest artificial lake in the world. The lake runs 250 miles to the north, covering 4 per cent of the surface area of Ghana.

The World Bank, Ghana, Britain, and the United States spent \$121,800,000 on the first stage, which increased the country's electrical generating capacity by about 500 per cent, created a fresh-water fishing industry, irrigated 440,000 areas of the Accra Plains and resulted in new ports and a transportation system which opens up the interior of Ghana for further development.

The new transmission-line will give Togo and Dahomey access to this source of power, the cheapest in West Africa. Neither country has known resources of fossil fuel, and a study undertaken through the United Nations advised against developing other power projects at the present time. The line will serve the coastal regions of Togo and Dahomey, where growing commerce and industry create increasing demands for power.

Togo and Dahomey are to establish a joint management body to administer the purchase and distribution of power supplied by the Volta River Authority. Canadian participation is subject to the completion of these steps.

Canada's contribution will begin with a \$150,000-study for the transmission-line. Engineering costs will be covered by non-repayable grant aid, while

the provision equipment and construction will be financed with long-term interest-free development loans. About 55 per cent of the loans will be used by Ghana, the remainder shared by Togo and Dahomey.

CANADA COUNCIL GRANTS

Canada's three largest ballet companies are among the recipients of grants totalling \$1,345,550 announced recently by the Canada Council. The National Ballet of Toronto is to receive \$350,000 for the 1968-69 season, which will consist of 181 performances at home and on tour. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens of Montreal will receive \$170,000 each for the season.

The grants are part of a Canada Council programme of aid to the performing arts, which amounted to \$4,815,000 in 1967-68 and is expected to reach \$6,200,000 in 1968-69.

MUSIC

An award of \$260,000 goes to the Canadian Opera Company, Toronto, for the 1968-69 season. The National Youth Orchestra receives \$25,000 for the 1968 season, including a training session in Quebec City and concerts in Quebec City, Chicoutimi, Trois-Rivières, Ottawa, Sudbury, London and Toronto. A \$10,000-award goes to the Banff School of Fine Arts of the University of Alberta to help support a semi-professional orchestra to accompany its opera, ballet and musical theatre productions on tour in Western Canada. The Manitoba University Consort of Winnipeg is to receive \$5,000 towards the cost of its summer tour, during which it will present concerts of ancient music in Britain and Europe. The Cantata Singers of Ottawa will receive \$550 for a performance of Bach's *St. John Passion*.

THEATRE

The sum of \$350,000 goes to the Stratford Shakespearean Festival for the 1968 season. This year's Festival (the sixteenth), will include productions of Molière's *Tartuffe*, in English; an adaptation of *The Three Musketeers*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *Romeo and Juliet*. The Canadian Theatre Centre, Toronto, will receive \$5,000 towards the cost of an International Exhibition of theatre designs at Man and His World, the exhibition to be held in Montreal this summer.

TERRITORIAL LANDS ACT CHANGES

Royal Assent to Territorial Lands Act amendments simplifying methods for granting title for lands in the Yukon and Northwest Territories has been announced by Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Development.

Mr. Laing said that the original bill received speedy Parliamentary approval in both the Senate and the House of Commons, and he would now do everything possible to implement the new procedures in the immediate future. The new procedure should