



## Watch your speed...

Four native Indian driving instructors who have trained and qualified to teach driving, using this up-to-date equipment at New Westminster. They are now teaching on Indian reserves in the interior of British Columbia, where a driving licence is still a rarity: one example of the way Indians are moving forward in self-help and control of their own affairs. ♦

## Students play snooker in high school time

Almost 200 students in Ottawa have learned to play snooker in high school time from a veteran pool player, Rene Aubry. The course was suggested to senior public and secondary schools in Ottawa by the Broken Cue Billiard Parlour because they wanted to improve the public image of the game. Five schools agreed to try it and students from these schools attended weekly "study" sessions at Broken Cue parlours for a \$5 fee. For this they get eight two-hour lessons, instruction books and free entry in the annual Ottawa snooker championship.

The Broken Cue Parlour reports that attendance at classes was 100 per cent. "The only problem is that most of the students playing for the first time want to get out and attack the table. They tend to forget the theory behind the instruction and just play to have fun."

Aubry, their instructor, agrees. He says most beginners hit the ball too hard, and he should know. He has 51 years of pool behind him, having learnt it from his father at the age of 16, and is one of Canada's leading players. Last year he recorded the first perfect game of snooker in the Ottawa area. In his course he tries to emphasize the proper stance and technique for hitting

the ball straight, believing that better pool play must result from acquiring these basics "at a tender age." ♦

## More Canadian plays are being produced

A boom in the production of Canadian plays has been reported by the Canada Council in its annual report to Parliament. In the 1971-72 season, the number of performances of works by Canadian playwrights more than doubled from the previous season and accounted for nearly half of all theatre performances. The trend appears to have continued over the subsequent two seasons, though exact figures are not yet available.

This dramatic increase in production of Canadian plays — a sign that the current nationalism in the Canadian theatre really has gone nationwide — is in one respect worrying to the Canada Council, in that it increases the danger of theatres collapsing through shortage of funds. The Council comments: "While artistic directors of many of the theatre companies recognize that Canadian plays can fill the house, it is riskier and generally more expensive to stage new and original work of any kind. The temptation to play safe is very strong when the price of a single slip at the box office is financial disaster."

New plays also require more generous

royalties to playwrights and more time and money to work with them in developing the plays. The report says the new plays are being performed most frequently by smaller, experimental theatres; it urges that more money be made available to encourage the larger companies to stage new plays and enable them to offer playwrights "more than the pathetically small amounts that (they) have so far received for the staging of their creations."

The report comments: "Many of the companies are moving wholeheartedly in this direction. Audiences are responding well. We believe that the regular staging of good new Canadian plays will add immeasurably to popular interest and enjoyment of the theatre." ♦

## Prelate urges church tax

While preservationists scurry around raising money to save church buildings, a Canadian churchman is apparently bent on doing just the opposite. Not only does Bruce McLeod, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, declare that there are too many church buildings: he has actually put out a plea for taxation to help cut down their numbers.

He told a meeting of Presbytery church women in Lindsay, Ontario: "It is my personal view that we should criticize the church for not going to the government and saying 'Tax us.'" There were too many church buildings and, although the resources of a congregation might be dwindling, "we seem to be unable to close any church. . . . With talk of closing it, all sorts of sentiment arises and so we tend to let things go on."

One reason there are too many churches, Dr. McLeod argues, is because they are tax-free. He feels that in his own area of Toronto, if union between the Anglican Church and the United Church comes about, the four existing churches will not all be needed. Surplus churches could, he suggests, be turned into low-cost housing or education centres, or be sold. ♦

## Ottawa finds new traffic beaters

Two new ways of beating traffic congestion may soon become available in Ottawa: a super-speedy tricycle for grown-ups and an eight-sided minibus designed by a husband and wife team of architects, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. P. Van Ginkel, and known, predictably, as the "Ginkelvan."