

CANADA, THE UK AND THE EEC

At the end of the recent two-day visit to Ottawa by Mr. Duncan Sandys, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, the following *communiqué* was released:

"Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, met yesterday and today under the Chairmanship of Mr. Donald Fleming, Canadian Minister of Finance, with Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Sandys also had a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker. Mr. Sandys explained the British Government's assessment of the potential advantages and disadvantages of Britain either joining or staying out of the European Economic Community. The British Government had as yet reached no decision on this issue. The immediate question was whether or not to open negotiations with the Community.

"The Canadian Ministers recognized that this is a matter for decision by the British Government.

"Mr. Sandys said that if, following the present preliminary exchanges of views, the British Government should decide to open negotiations, they would then consult fully with the other members of the Commonwealth.

"The Canadian Ministers indicated that their Government's assessment of the situation was different from that put forward by Mr. Sandys. They expressed the grave concern of the Canadian Government about the implications of possible negotiations between Britain and the European Economic Community, and about the political and economic effects which British membership in the European Economic Community would have on Canada and on the Commonwealth as a whole.

"Mr. Sandys said that, before the British Government reached any decision, they would carefully consider the views of the Canadian Government together with those of other Commonwealth Governments."

STRATFORD ATTENDANCE

During the first three weeks of its 1961 season, the Stratford Festival Theatre has been filled to 78 per cent of capacity, reports Victor C. Polley, administrative director. Since the opening on June 19, more than 39,000 people have paid \$141,000 to see the three Shakespearean plays, "Coriolanus", "Henry VIII" and "Love's Labour's Lost."

Although attendance to date has been three per cent lower than for the equivalent period in 1960 because of the earlier opening of the season, general advance bookings are well ahead of last year. For the entire season, bookings have now passed \$500,000, a figure not reached until a week later in 1960.

Like the drama in the Festival Theatre, Tyrone

Guthrie's production of "The Pirates of Penzance" is proving to be highly popular in the Avon Theatre. During its first three performances, 3,230 people paid \$10,400 to see the Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Already 37,000 out of a possible 47,000 bookings have been made for the "Pirates" which opened a six-week run on July 7 to enthusiastic reviews.

RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT

Cars of railway revenue freight loaded on lines in Canada in the first six months of this year numbered 1,648,133, a decrease of 8.2 per cent from last year's first-half total of 1,796,100 cars. Receipts from connections dropped 15.2 per cent in the period to 625,921 cars from 738,339, while piggy-back loadings rose 2.9 per cent to 80,247 cars from 77,964.

Loadings in the last nine days of June declined to 102,528 cars from 106,747 a year earlier, bringing the total for the month of June to 326,385 cars, a decrease of 4.4 per cent from the year-earlier total of 341,408 cars. Receipts from connections were down in the nine days to 28,414 cars from 34,850, and in the month to 106,296 cars from 115,333. Piggy-back loadings were up in the nine days to 4,808 cars from 3,994, and in the month to 15,257 cars from 13,605.

The principal commodities loaded on fewer cars in the January 1-June 30 period included: iron ore, 76,561 cars (97,806 a year ago); building sand, gravel and crushed stone, 53,049 (64,498); lumber, timber and plywood, 98,533 (100,627); automobiles, trucks and parts, 27,163 (42,408); and l.c.l. merchandise, 177,031 (229,444). Loadings of wheat increased in the period to 135,006 cars from 128,715.

NEW ATLANTIC CABLE BEGUN

The Canadian mainland shore-end of the new trans-Atlantic multi-purpose telecommunications cable being laid by the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation was spliced on the afternoon of July 10, as the laying of the St. Lawrence River section of the cable got under way at Grosses Roches, Quebec. Present aboard the cable-ship "Alert" were R.G. Griffith, vice-president and chief engineer of the COTC, Deputy Minister of Transport John Baldwin, Gordon W. Stead, Assistant Deputy Minister, Marine, and other officials of the federal Department of Transport and the COTC.

The St. Lawrence River section of the cable will be 380 miles long and will extend along the river and across the Gulf of St. Lawrence from Grosses Roches to Corner Brook, Newfoundland. It is expected that it will be completed about July 15. The 6,000-ton "Alert", launched at Glasgow, Scotland, last November, is laying the first wholly Canadian-owned multi-purpose telecommunications cable as her maiden job. The cable and the repeaters, devices