

ARTS CENTRE YOUTH PROGRAMME

It is estimated that only four Canadians in 100 have attended a live, professional performance of music, ballet or drama. But, through a carefully planned youth programme, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, which opened on May 31, hopes to change these statistics for future generations.

The youth programme, which will be implemented initially in the Ottawa region, includes many activities. A series of special matinees for students, featuring opera, ballet, music and drama companies, is scheduled for the 1969-70 season.

A student-award programme grants invitations for regular subscription programmes to outstanding students from schools in Ottawa and its vicinity and field trips to and tours of the Centre are actively encouraged. With the permission of the companies concerned, groups of students will be invited to attend rehearsals to learn about the performing arts.

The youth programme not only welcomes students to performances at the Centre; it sends performers out to the students in their schools. A choice of 33 carefully-planned productions, designed for different age and interest groups, is offered to the area's elementary and high schools. For the first year of operation, from June 1969 to June 1970, 884 performances have been scheduled. It is expected that more than 400,000 students will be involved in this programme.

TRADE - FIRST QUARTER 1969

Exports in the first quarter of 1969 grew more slowly than imports, a continuation of the pattern of the final quarter of 1968. Exports rose by almost 6 per cent in the first quarter of this year, to \$3,747 million, compared to 5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1968. Imports rose by over 6 per cent in the first quarter, to \$3,530 million, against an increase of 10 per cent in the previous quarter. The merchandise trade surplus, accordingly, declined from \$226 million in the final quarter of 1968 to \$217 million.

The increase in exports of \$202 million from the last quarter of 1968 was spread over a broad area. Exports to the United States rose by 6 per cent, or \$418 million, in the first three months of this year, and exports to Britain rose by \$15 million or 5 per cent. Sales to all other destinations increased by 5 per cent to \$829 million.

The increase in imports followed a similar pattern in the first quarter. Purchases from U.S. rose by 6 per cent or \$150 million, and those from Britain increased slightly to \$190 million. Shipments from all other countries rose by 8 per cent to \$753 million.

Thus, as in preceding quarters, Canada continued to maintain a slight surplus on trade with the United States. In the fourth quarter of 1968 exports to the U.S. were \$2,457 million, for a favourable balance of \$20 million. In the current quarter, exports to the U.S. had risen to \$2,605 million, and the surplus was \$18 million.

ALBERTA POLLUTION CONTROL

Efforts by the Alberta Government to encourage involvement of industry and the public in preventive and corrective activities against pollution has brought together representatives of specific areas of concern and officials of the Environmental Health Services Division of the Alberta Department of Health.

Perhaps representative of such gatherings was a recent meeting of about 100 representatives of major gas and oil companies and government. Among the topics discussed were current legislation, plant approval guide-lines and other problems of mutual concern. Oil and Gas Conservation Board regulations were reviewed, and proposals and suggestions for improvement of existing conditions were put forward.

Recommendations from the discussions are being evaluated by the Department of Health officials and may result in improvement to Alberta's current air and water pollution regulations. Alberta was the first province in Canada to initiate such regulations, and is desirous of upgrading them to meet changing conditions.

TRIO OF BIRD STAMPS

Three bird stamps, that are to be released by the Canada Post Office on July 23, depicting the white-throated sparrow, the Ipswich sparrow and the hermit thrush, in their native haunts, are based on designs by Martin Glen Loates of Willowdale, Ontario, whose first stamp design was for a gray jay issue of 1968.

Four-colour lithography has been used by the Canadian Bank Note Co., Ottawa, in the production of the new stamps, each of which will have dimensions of 24. x 40 mm. The white-throated sparrow six-cent vertical issue is printed in brown, green, black and yellow; the Ipswich sparrow ten-cent issue, in a horizontal format, shows one bird and is printed in brown, black, blue and yellow. Also illustrating one bird is the hermit thrush 25-cent issue in the horizontal format, using brown, black, yellow and green.

The birds chosen for use in this series were selected by the Post Office Department in consultation with officers of the Natural History Branch, National Museum of Canada.