

annually. The other is the University Capital Grants Fund, which is to be spent over a period of years - probably five to ten - in matching grants to universities for building purposes in connection with the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

The Canada Council also administers the Canadian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

ESKIMO CO-OPERATIVES CONFER

Eskimos from 16 Arctic communities will assemble on March 12 in Frobisher Bay for the first meeting of Eskimo co-operatives ever held in Canada.

During the five-day conference the representatives of communities across the Arctic will discuss the progress being made in Canada's newest co-operative businesses and plans for ultimate federation of Canadian Arctic co-operatives. The delegates will represent communities from as far west as Aklavik, near the Yukon border, and as far east as Port Burwell, at the tip of the eastern mainland. The most northern representative will come from Grise Fiord, a tiny Eskimo settlement 2,150 miles north of Montreal.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

In addition to learning about the activities of Arctic co-operatives other than their own, Eskimo delegates will consider such matters as production and marketing of northern items, many of which are already on sale in Southern Canada and abroad. There will be discussions on the progress being made by commercial Arctic-char fisheries, the operation of tourist camps, the development of inter-community trade, boat building and the production of fine crafts.

Though the first Eskimo co-operative was established in Port-Nouveau Quebec (then known as George River), early in 1959, membership in Eskimo co-operatives now totals 500. This represents nearly one in five Eskimo families in the Canadian North. It is estimated that in 1962 Eskimo co-operatives produced more than \$275,000 in cash income for their members.

"The growth of the Eskimo co-operatives", Northern Affairs Minister Walter Dinsdale has said, "is one of the most encouraging developments in the Northwest Territories and Arctic Quebec in recent years. It has created new outlets for Eskimo resourcefulness by placing in capable Eskimo hands more and more of the responsibility for the management of local affairs".

EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS

Canada's industrial composite index number of employment (1949=100) declined by 3.1 per cent to 120.4 in December from the preceding month's 124.3. The December 1961 index stood at 117.3. As usual for the time of year, most industrial divisions showed reductions. The main exception was trade, where employment normally rises to a seasonal peak in December. Seasonally-adjusted, the composite ad-

vanced from 122.1 in November to 122.4 in December, largely as a result of improvement in trade and in transportation, storage and communication.

The seasonally-adjusted December index for manufacturing showed little change from November. The adjusted durables component rose slightly as most major industries declined less than seasonally. A contra-seasonal decrease in tobacco and tobacco products was the main factor in the decline in the adjusted index for non-durable goods manufacturing.

The industrial composite of average weekly wages and salaries for December was \$78.57, down almost \$3.00 from November. The December figure is typically low, mainly because of short time and absenteeism associated with the Christmas period. The payroll index for December was 222.1, 6.7 per cent below November but 4.1 per cent above December 1961.

FESTIVAL BUYS AVON THEATRE

The Stratford Shakespearean Festival has acquired a second theatre in Stratford, Leonard C. Webster, President on the Board of Governors, announced recently. The Avon Theatre, in the downtown area of the city, was purchased with the purpose of restoring it as an attractive legitimate theatre of the sort that once flourished in Canada but is rapidly disappearing.

Two buildings are, in fact, involved - the Theatre itself and a second structure fronting it containing stores and apartments. Extensive alterations are planned, though they will not be started until after the conclusion of the 1963 Festival season on September 28. Robert Fairfield, the Toronto architect who designed the Festival Theatre and the tent theatre that preceded it, has been retained to re-design both the interior and exterior.

A PRACTICAL MOVE

"With long-range views in mind," said Mr. Webster, "it is essential that we begin to improve the facilities for our productions which cannot be held in the Festival Theatre itself. The success of the Festival depends upon a diversified and skilfully-balanced programme which now includes drama, music and arts generally. The purchase of the Avon Theatre offers a practical solution and carries out our policy of steady, continuing improvement."

A motion-picture house for the past 30 years, the Avon has been used by the Festival on a rental basis for part of the summer, principally as a home for its light operas. Since 1958, it has presented "The Beggar's Opera," "Opheus in the Underworld," "H.M.S. Pinafore," "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Gondoliers" on the Avon stage. This summer it will offer "The Mikado", which will open on July 5 and continue until August 17.

Known variously over the years as the Theatre Albert, the Griffin and the Majestic, the Avon had had an illustrious career dating back more than 60 years. It was originally a legitimate theatre, built in 1900 for touring stage shows. The opening attraction was "A Female Drummer," a roadshow starring Nellie O'Neill and Willis P. Sweatman.