

RED CHORUS AT STRATFORD

The Red Army singers, dancers and musicians, touring Canada during their first North American appearance, visited the Stratford Shakespearean Festival Theatre on Sunday evening, August 27. Before an invited audience, the visiting chorus presented a portion of its programme, which lasted about half the evening. The other half was filled by the Stratford Shakespearean Festival Company, which performed the second act of "Love's Labour's Lost," one of the three Shakespearean plays of the 1961 season.

The Red Army Chorus, which numbers 180 men, travelled to Stratford by chartered bus after playing a matinee in Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, and returned to Toronto the same night.

NEW NCC CHAIRMAN

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has announced the appointment of Lieutenant-General S.F. Clark, CBE, CD, as Chairman of the National Capital Commission in Ottawa. General Clark, Chief of the General Staff for the Canadian Army, will be seconded from the Department of National Defence on October 1.

General Clark has been a professional soldier since 1933. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, he holds degrees in both electrical and mechanical engineering from the Universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. During the peacetime development of the Canadian Army over the past 10 years, General Clark has served as both Quartermaster-General and Chief of the General Staff. These appointments have given him a wide range of administrative experience which is essential for the tasks he will face as Capital Commission Chairman.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION

The world's first isotope-powered automatic weather station had been installed ahead of schedule at Sherwood Head on Axel Heiberg Island in the Canadian high Arctic, the Canadian Department of Transport and the U.S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau announced on August 21. Ice and shoals prevented the landing of the apparatus on Graham Island, the site originally picked for the station. Sherwood Head some 60 miles further north, was the first pre-chosen alternative selected.

A radio message from the Canadian icebreaker CMS "John A. Macdonald" said that the first automatic transmission took place on August 17 at 1500 hours GMT, and that temperature, barometric pressure and wind-speed data had been transmitted every three hours subsequently. The signals are received at Resolute and remain loud and clear.

The radio message said the "John A." remained anchored half a mile off shore during the entire installation, which took less than 40 hours. The com-

plete resources of the huge icebreaker, including both helicopters and the ship's radio communication facilities, were put at the disposal of the work parties. Hot meals were made available on a 24-hour basis.

The message said careful and detailed planning by the U.S. Weather Bureau and both the Meteorological Branch and the Marine Services of the Transport Department, as well as information supplied by the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, greatly expedited the installation.

BLINDNESS TREATMENT PROGRAMME

A total of 105 blind persons received treatment during 1960-61 under a federal-provincial programme, it was announced recently by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The treatment was successful in 80 cases and many of the remaining 25 persons benefited by some sight improvement.

The treatment plan, originated in 1948, is administered by the Blindness Control Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Department reimburses the participating provinces for 75 per cent of the cost of treatment.

The programme, for 1948 to the end of the 1960-61 fiscal year, has provided treatment for 731 persons receiving Blindness Allowances. Treatment was successful in 562 cases, which is roughly 77 per cent of those treated. While cataract extractions represent the bulk of treatments carried out, corneal transplants are being done more frequently than in preceding years.

"Blindness is, fortunately, often curable and we in this Division are heartened by the steadily increasing use of the treatment programme by the provincial authorities", says Dr. Hoffman, Chief of the Blindness Control Division.

NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY SITE

Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced recently that tenders would be called for the construction of a wartime emergency site for government at Regina, Saskatchewan. This announcement supplemented those made by the Prime Minister on April 19 and June 21. The location is the ninth to be designated as the site of such a headquarters.

Plans regarding an emergency site in Newfoundland are being developed and will be announced eventually.

These emergency headquarters would provide protection from radioactive fallout for a small group of federal, provincial and army personnel who would direct emergency measures within the provinces. They would provide for the necessary communications by which information and instructions to local communities and the general population could be given. They would not provide protection against the blast or heat of a nuclear explosion. They will be part of the system originally announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on May 31, 1960. A further statement on them was made in Parliament on January 20 last.