

## ASSISTANCE TO TRINIDAD

Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare, has announced that the services of the Department's chief legal adviser, Mr. Robert E. Curran, Q.C., have been made available to assist the Government of Trinidad in revising its public health legislation. Mr. Curran has recently completed a preliminary survey of the situation and will return to the West Indian island later in the year to begin work on the assignment.

The Health Minister stated that the Government was pleased to be able to assist Trinidad in this important undertaking. "It is surely a compliment to this country that in approaching the World Health Organization for help in this matter, Trinidad asked particularly for a Canadian. Mr. Curran is one of our leading legal experts in the field of public health legislation and I know that he will carry out this new assignment with the same distinction he has exhibited in tackling other tasks in the domestic and international health spheres."

Mr. Curran, who has been in the Department of National Health and Welfare for some ten years, is the author of "Canada's Food and Drug Laws" and is honorary solicitor to the Nation-

al Heart Foundation, the Canadian Cancer Institute and the Canadian Association of Radiologists. He has also been instrumental in the incorporation of many nation-wide voluntary health agencies. On the international scene, Mr. Curran has represented Canada at a number of U.N. Conferences. His most recent activity in this field was serving as chairman of the Drafting Committee charged by the Narcotic Commission with the codification of existing international conventions.

In his announcement today, Mr. Monteith described the loan of Mr. Curran's services to Trinidad as being in line with the Government's efforts to promote closer Commonwealth ties. Trinidad is slated to become a unit in the West Indies Federation next year. "The Government particularly appreciates this opportunity of sharing Canadian experience in the matter of health legislation with our partners in the Commonwealth. In so doing, we hope to provide concrete evidence to the people of Trinidad, not only of our genuine interest in their well-being but also of the friendly spirit of co-operation that prevails within this great family of nations."

**NEW YORK APPEARANCE:** Twenty Canadian actors, veteran members of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival in Canada, will form the first travelling company of the Festival Foundation embarking on a three month tour in February 1958, which will take them from London, Ontario, to New York. The tour will feature two proscenium style productions, a German comedy, "The Broken Jug" by Heinrich Von Kleist, adapted by Canadian actor-author Donald Harron of Toronto, and William Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona". Both productions will be directed by Michael Langham and designed by Tanya Moiseiwitsch. Sets and costumes will be produced by the Festival Foundation.

Opening at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, February 12 for a four day run, the company moves to Toronto February 17 for a two week appearance at the Royal Alexandra. From March 3 to March 15 they are scheduled to play at Her Majesty's Theatre in Montreal, going straight from there to New York. The company is being presented in New York in association with the Phoenix Theatre, where they play a six week engagement, March 17 to April 26.

As yet the playing dates of each particular play have not been scheduled, but it is expected that during the longer runs they will alternate weekly. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the theatres in which they are housed. Discussing the first touring appearance of the Canadian Festival Company, noted for its summer productions on the open stage at Stratford.

**VACATION DATA:** Paid vacations for Canadian workers are more widespread, of longer duration, and require shorter relative qualifying periods than ever before in Canada's history.

This information was brought out as a result of the 1956 annual survey of working conditions conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The survey covered firms in most branches of industry with total employment of more than 1,600,000 workers. Of this total about 75 per cent were non-office and 25 per cent office employees.

The most notable developments in regard to vacation practices in Canada have been, first of all, the growth in their incidence, particularly for non-office workers; secondly, the extension of annual vacations to two and three weeks per year, in some cases to four weeks; and thirdly, the reduction of service requirements for entitlement to vacations of various lengths. Also a feature is the growing similarity, in most industrial groups, in vacations for non-office and office workers.

In 1949, 97 per cent of office workers in manufacturing had paid vacations of two weeks while only 81 per cent of non-office employees had two weeks. However, in 1956 the corresponding percentages were 99 and 92 respectively. Similarly, in 1949, 42 per cent of office workers could become eligible for vacations of three weeks, compared with only 30 per cent of non-office workers, while in 1956 these figures had become 72 and 63 per cent respectively.