FOREST-FIRE PROTECTION MEET

The role of forestry schools in forest-fire protection in Canada was discussed at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Associate Committee on Forest Fire Protection of the National Research Council, held in Ottawa from February 2 to 4. The deans of the forestry faculties of the Universities of New Brunswick, Laval, Toronto and British Columbia attended the meeting for the first time. Forest-protection officials from the ten provinces and interested federal agencies heard details of the forest-fire protection courses being given in university forestry faculties.

Reports were given on the study conducted during the past year by the Aeronautical Establishment of the National Research Council, in co-operation with the fire-research sub-committee and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to determine the effectiveness of present methods of dropping water on fires from aircraft, and how to get most return for each dollar spent.

The Committee heard the results of tests held during April and May 1964 at the Petawawa Forest Experiment Station of the Department of Forestry on the use of an aircraft-borne infra-red scanner in the detection of fires. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests supplied the aircraft and pilot, and the Department of Forestry carried out the research in in co-operation with the manufacturer of the scanning equipment.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

The use of chemical fire retardants and suppressants, slash disposal and prescribed burning methods to reduce forest-fire danger and aid natural forest regeneration, and the role of the fire-control working group of the North American Forestry Commission, were among the various aspects of forest-fire research reviewed.

The Committee consists of representatives of the provincial forest-protection services, industrial forestry associations, and the federal Departments of Forestry and Council.

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WEILL OPERA AT STRATFORD

"The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny", an opera by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, will have its North American première during the Stratford Festival's thirteenth season next summer. Considered to be the finest work of the "Threepenny Opera" collaborators, "Mahagonny" will open on July 2 at the Avon Theatre and will play in repertory for eight weeks with "The Marriage of Figaro", which, after scoring a huge success at last summer's Festival, is being re-staged this year. Both works will be directed by Jean Gascon, Associate Director of the Festival.

Martha Schlamme, internationally-celebrated singer and actress, who has made a speciality of singing Weill's music in concert engagements, has been signed to play the principal role of Jenny in "Mahagonny". The surrounding cast has not yet been chosen, but auditions will be held shortly by Mr. Gascon and by Louis Applebaum, who will be the production's musical director. Brian Jackson, recently returned from a year in Rome, where he has been studying art on a Canada Council senior scholarship, will design the sets and costumes.

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SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MEETING

The Proceedings of the Conference on Snow Removal and Ice Control held in Ottawa February 17 and 18, 1964, under the sponsorship of the Snow and Ice Subcommittee, Associate Committee on Soil and Snow Mechanics, National Research Council, are now available. This 113-page volume contains the papers presented to the Conference as well as a complete record of discussions that took place and recommendations that were made.

The Conference had three principal objectives: (1) to begin to define those factors primarily responsible for the cost of snow removal and ice control; (2) to begin to record, in one place easily accessible to all, the considerable experience available on the problem; and (3) to begin to define areas where research and development should be encouraged. Contributions were presented on snow removal and ice control in cities, and on highways, railways and airport runways.

The Conference was a successful beginning to the definition of the snow-removal and ice-control problem in Canada. Considerable experience was presented, a number of problem areas were delineated, and a good basis established from which to consider these problems.

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