

DRAMA AWARDS

At the Dominion Drama Festival which was held this year from May 18-23 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto, La Compagnie Nina Diaconesco of Montreal won the Calvert Trophy and the \$1000 cash prize, for their production of "Le Militaire Fanfaron" by Plaute. This company, founded only a few months ago, is a group of young students from the course in dramatic art given by Mme Diaconesco in Montreal. Mme Diaconesco, who won the award for the best director, is a Roumanian and was a well-known actress in her own country before coming to Canada eighteen months ago.

L'Atelier du "Proscenium" of Montreal, winners of La Plaque du Festival for their production of "Victimes du Devoir" by Eugene Ionesco, also had the distinction of having the best actor and actress - Mr. Uriel Luft who won the Henry Osborne Challenge Trophy and Miss Claude Brabant who won the Nella Jeffries Challenge Trophy. Mme Lucie de Vienne, the director was awarded the Martha Allen Trophy for the best visual presentation. Mme Vienne is from Belgium.

The Simcoe Little Theatre won the English Plaque for their presentation of "The Boy Friend", the first musical to be presented at a Dominion Drama Festival. The Bessborough Trophy for outstanding achievement in the presentation of a classical play in the regional festivals, adjudicated by Mr. Richard Ainley, went to the Port Arthur Mummers for Strindberg's "Miss Julie". The Sir Barry Jackson Trophy for the best presentation in the regional festivals of a play written by a Canadian was awarded to Les Compagnons de Notre Dame de Trois Rivières for two one-act plays, "Les Oiseaux de Nuit" by Jean Pellerin and "La Geneviève" by Felix Leclerc.

M. Saint Denis of Paris, France, was the adjudicator of the Dominion Festival this year.

At the closing ceremonies, the first Life Governorship was presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, Mr. Vincent Massey, for his past service and interest in the Festival.

Another important announcement was M. Saint Denis' choice of the two actors and one actress for apprenticeship at the Stratford Shakespearean Festival. They were: Paul Davis (La Compagnie Nina Diaconesco), Dan Macdonald (Travelling Players, Halifax) and Claude Brabant (L'Atelier du "Proscenium").

CANADA COUNCIL AWARDS

The Canada Council has announced a plan to encourage the writing and production of Canadian plays. Using the new eight zone system of the Dominion Drama Festival for the basis of the plan, the Council will in each zone award to the group whose production of a full length play written by a Canadian is considered to be the best in the zone, the sum of \$400.00. The playwright of the play so selected will be awarded the sum of \$100.00.

The Council will also award the sum of \$500.00 to the playwright of a full-length play written by a Canadian if it should win the Calvert Trophy at the Dominion Drama Festival to be held at Vancouver from May 16-21, 1960.

For the purpose of these awards a Canadian is defined as a person domiciled in Canada.

IMPORTS - FIRST QUARTER

Imports into Canada were valued at \$1,242,000,000 in the first quarter of 1959, having exceeded in each month the corresponding values recorded last year, according to final and detailed figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This total was 4.4 per cent higher than the value of \$1,189,200,000 reached in the first quarter of 1958, but somewhat smaller than the totals for the same period in both 1957 and 1956. As there was a moderate decline in average import prices in the first quarter of 1959 the physical volume of imports rose even more than their value. The latest quarterly figures are some \$2,000,000 less than the preliminary total reported on April 21.

The United States and the United Kingdom were the respective sources of 71.8 per cent and 8.8 per cent of Canadian imports in the first quarter of 1959 as compared to 72.3 per cent and 9.8 per cent in the first quarter of 1958. The shares of the Commonwealth countries (other than the United Kingdom) and Latin America were virtually unchanged at 3.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively, while the proportion of imports from Europe rose from 4.5 per cent to 5.3 per cent and that from all other countries taken as a group went up from 3.3 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

Imports in March were valued at \$441,500,000 and were 3.4 per cent higher than in the same month last year. Contrary to the aggregate movement in the first quarter imports from the United States were fractionally lower in March, whereas imports from the United Kingdom were lower both in the month and the quarter. There were sharp increases in March as well as in the quarter in imports from Europe and other foreign countries and moderate increases from the Commonwealth, while imports from Latin America rose sharply in March but only moderately in the quarter.

Among the main commodity groups imported into Canada in the first quarter of 1959, the largest absolute but not relative increase was in iron and steel goods, and there were also gains in chemicals, non-metallic minerals, animal products, wood products and miscellaneous products; while fractional declines were registered for agricultural and vegetable products, textiles and non-ferrous metals. Among the leading commodities, the most substantial value and percentage increases occurred in automobiles and automobile parts and farm implements and machinery, with lesser

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