

CANADA-ARGENTINE TELEX

On November 28, Dr. Arturo Frondizi, President of Argentina, opened direct telecommunications between Canada and Argentina over the facilities of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation. Assisted by the President and General Manager of COTC, Douglas F. Bowie, Dr. Frondizi transmitted a telex message to Buenos Aires to inaugurate this service. Mr. Bowie stated that, in addition to opening direct telex services, the Corporation simultaneously placed in service direct telegraph and telephone operations between Canada and Argentina.

PLAYERS TO TOUR UNIVERSITIES

A company from the Stratford Shakespearean Festival is to go out on a tour of 11 Eastern Canadian universities during February and March 1962. Sponsored by the Canada Council and the universities themselves, the company will present a two-part programme during two successive performances at each stop. Michael Langham, artistic director of the Stratford Festival, is preparing a script to illustrate the development of Shakespearean comedy, drawing his material from "The Taming of the Shrew," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Twelfth Night," "The Merchant of Venice," "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "The Comedy of Errors," "Love's Labour's Lost" and "As You Like It."

The first part of the programme will be presented in the nature of a planned rehearsal and preparation for the second, with the actors in working clothes. The second, growing out of the first, will present excerpts from finished productions, in full costume. The audience will thus see how a play develops and how certain of the problems presented by Shakespeare's comedies are met and dealt with by actor and director both during rehearsal and in performance.

COLLEGES VISITED

Travelling throughout Ontario and Quebec by bus, the company will open at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on February 6 and 7, and will conclude its tour at Hart House Theatre, University of Toronto, on March 9 and 10. Between these two points, performances will be seen at the University of Waterloo College; Assumption University of Windsor; the University of Western Ontario, London; McMaster University, Hamilton; Laurentian University of Sudbury (provisional); Carleton University, Ottawa; the University of Ottawa; Sir George Williams University, Montreal; and Queen's University, Kingston.

Although productions at the Stratford Festival are presented on an apron stage with almost no "dressing," aside from costumes and properties, the touring company will be appearing against a background of drapery in auditoriums which have proscenium stages. In order that the production may remain standard in all its engagements throughout the university tour, a special aluminum-pipe framework, on which lights and curtains can be hung, is being constructed. Designed for quick assembling and

striking, this framework can be packed away in the company bus and be ready to move on to the next stand within a couple of hours after a performance.

The programme, Mr. Langham explains, will be aimed at adult student audiences. Whether or not the performances will be open to the general public depends on the individual college or university and the capacity of its auditorium. In any case, it is planned that the participating actors will be available during the daytime for special discussion groups with students.

NEW FORESTRY AID PROGRAMME

Mr. Hugh John Flemming, Minister of Forestry, announced recently that a new and improved programme of financial aid in forestry operation was being offered the provinces.

Under agreements at present in effect, federal financial assistance is available to the provinces until the end of March 1962 for the conduct of forest inventories and reforestation, for the purchase of capital assets needed for forest-fire protection, and for the construction of forest access roads. This aid has been provided under three separate agreements. The Federal Government has now offered to provide future assistance under a single agreement with a 50-50 sharing of costs for all approved activities except reforestation.

STAND IMPROVEMENT

One additional type of activity will qualify for federal assistance - namely, stand-improvement operations. These include the felling of damaged and dead trees, the thinning of over-dense young stands, and similar measures intended to release the more promising trees from over-crowding and to encourage development of high-quality timber. Experiments have shown that much can be done in this way to improve the forests, and work of this kind is particularly useful in providing so-called "off-season" employment.

The Federal Government is offering a total amount of \$7,910,000 for each of the next two years, to be divided among the provinces in proportion to their respective productive areas.

Those provinces who wish to take advantage of the whole of their allotment will be asked to ensure that at least 40 per cent of the total amount will be spent on the construction of access roads. With the exception of this requirement, each province will be free to distribute its expenditures among the approved activities previously mentioned in whatever way seems best suited to its particular needs. Thus a measure of flexibility will be provided that has to some degree been lacking in the current series of agreements. Other detail changes have been made on the basis of past experience to ensure that both federal and provincial expenditures on these programmes will be used to the best advantage. The Federal Government believes that these changes will be most acceptable to the provincial authorities.