

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Robert Bryce, Deputy Minister of Finance, has won the 1967 Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Public Service of Canada, the highest award that the Government can make to a public servant.

The award, which was presented by the Governor General on December 4, in the form of an illuminated address signed by the Governor General and the Prime Minister, and an honorarium of \$5,000 was introduced by the Government of Canada in 1966 to honour exceptional accomplishment in the national interest and for the public good which has brought distinction to the public service.

In a letter to Mr. Bryce, advising him of his selection as winner of the award, the Prime Minister said: "My colleagues join me in extending to you our warmest congratulations and our sincere thanks for the devotion you have shown over a long period in the service of Canada. You are well aware that I consider that Canada's Public Service has no equal. The Public Service unmistakably bears your imprint. This award for outstanding achievement is some recognition of your incomparable work."

STRATFORD BOX OFFICE '67

During the centennial year, the Stratford Festival played 11 productions in ten months, including two on a pre-season tour of Canada and two at Expo 67 after the season closed. The Festival Company was kept together for 38 weeks, the longest on record and played to more people in more places than ever before.

In a recent report to the annual meeting of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival Foundation of Canada, Mr. Floyd S. Chalmers, the Foundation's President, said that, with the completion in 1967 of the Avon Theatre, buildings and other fixed assets reached a total of \$4,018,621. Donations, not including grants, totalled \$186,039 during the year.

Box-office sales for the 18-week season at Stratford reached \$1,215,079, \$21,442 more than in 1966. This does not include receipts for the six-week national tour last February and March under the auspices of Festival Canada, nor the two weeks in October at the World Festival in Montreal. The plays presented at the Festival Theatre this summer established a box-office record.

The loss for the year was \$262,449, before donations, which were applied to the cost of capital assets. A loss of \$216,575 was recorded in 1966. The 1967 expenses included \$114,000 for depreciation.

The Festival Theatre's 1957 debenture issue originally was \$650,000 and, during this year an additional payment of \$39,000 was made to reduce this amount to \$242,100.

"Festival officers knew that centennial year was going to be a challenging and difficult one for Stratford. We faced a very powerful counter-attraction in Expo," Mr. Chalmers said. "Last year," he went on, "we set an objective of having all the invest-

ment in theatres and equipment paid off in five years. Due chiefly to the expensive character of the centennial year programme, we did not make our target for this year."

REGIONAL WAGE GAPS

A publication just issued by the Canada Department of Labour on Canadian wage trends since the last war indicates that the gaps are widening between manufacturing earnings in the various regions of Canada and also between hourly earnings in the main groups of manufacturing industries.

Hourly wages in manufacturing in British Columbia increased the most. The increase was 120 per cent from 1949 to 1965, compared to the national average of 114 per cent. In 1965, they were the highest in Canada, standing at 24 per cent above the national average.

Manufacturing wages increased least in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick - 1949 data are lacking for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island - and the Atlantic region as a whole ranked lowest in 1965.

Among the manufacturing industries, most of those with below-average hourly earnings in 1949 were even further below the average in 1965, while those with earnings above the average increased their lead during the period.

The publication entitled *The Behaviour of Canadian Wages and Salaries in the Postwar Period*, shows that the steady narrowing of skill differentials evident in the decades before and after the Second World War - that is, the difference between wage rates of skilled and unskilled workers - has slowed down in recent years or even reverses itself. The greatest narrowing occurred during the Second World War but the premium for skilled work is beginning to increase in many cases.

While the total of wages, salaries and supplementary income payments continues to be greatest in the business sector of the economy, the new publication shows that the total payments in the personal and government sectors increased almost twice as much between 1949 and 1965 as the total in the business sector.

TORONTO LIGHTS UP

Toronto's Parliament Buildings will be ablaze with coloured lights during the coming holiday season, following a centennial tree-lighting ceremony that will take place in the Ontario capital on December 6. Climaxing centennial celebrations, the other provinces and the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are sending an evergreen tree apiece for Toronto's year-end festivities. The 12 trees will be lighted one by one to the accompaniment of a choir of 2,000 voices leading the onlookers in the traditional Christmas carols.