

TV film of NAC Orchestra at Bath Festival

Canadians will be able to see on television tonight a colour film of the performance by the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra on May 25 in Britain's historic Bath Abbey. It was the first time television cameras were allowed in the Abbey to film a live performance.

The concert, which opened the Bath Festival, was one of 16 by the Orchestra during its first European tour last spring — a five-week visit to Poland, the Soviet Union, England, Wales, France and Italy. The program consisted of excerpts from the *Water Music* by Handel, *Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli*, the first performance of *East* by R. Murray Schafer (commissioned by the NAC Orchestra) and Haydn's *Symphony No. 96 in D Major* (the "Miracle Symphony").



Mario Bernardi conducts the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Boom in agricultural products expected to continue

It seems difficult to envisage a continuation of the very sharp increases in agricultural prices that were the case this year, according to the Bank of Montreal *Business Review* for October.

The *Review* says that, with harvesting pretty well completed, early indications are that Canadian farmers have reaped a crop of above-average proportions. From the point of view of controlling inflation, it comments, this is welcome news indeed.

Canadian and United States farmers appear to be in a very favourable position to increase production further without precipitating a sharp break in prices. One reason for this is that, as a result of the substantial increase in the valuation of many major world currencies *vis-a-vis* the U.S. and Canadian dollars, North American farm products have become relatively cheaper than they were formerly. A significant opportunity to increase North American food exports exists as a result.

Canadian farmers, says the *Review*, already have enjoyed an exceptionally good year financially, except in dairy and tobacco farming. Sharp increases in receipts in a broad range of produce have enabled them, in the course of

one year, almost to close the wide gap between the average farm income and the average industrial wage. From a depressed level of \$4.1 billion in 1970, Canadian farm cash receipts rose 30 per cent to \$5.3 billion in the two-year period to 1972. A further 25 to 30 per cent increase appears to be in store this year.

Wheat biggest money-maker

Wheat has accounted for an important part of this increase, mainly because of sharply higher prices. The Canadian export price for standard top-quality milling wheat, for example, went from \$1.70 a bushel in August 1972 to \$5.66 in late September this year. In the same period, Durum wheat jumped even more steeply from \$1.69 to \$9.00 per bushel.

Meanwhile, wheat exports in the crop year ended July 31 approached record levels, mainly on the strength of increased shipments to the U.S.S.R. and China.

The *Review* says that this year's wheat harvest is estimated at 622 million bushels, up some 17 per cent from that of 1972. But even if exports were to drop rather sharply, it comments, it appears almost inevitable that

wheat stocks next summer will drop below their low levels of last summer. The reason is a very tight supply situation within Canada. This applies not only to wheat but to oilseeds — flaxseed, rapeseed and soybeans — used extensively as feed for livestock.

Thus the strong domestic demand for oilseeds has reduced available stocks. A similar situation has existed in feed grains: oats, barley and rye. In each case, domestic demand has been so strong that the supplies available for export have fallen while stocks have been reduced.

The crop of feed grains this year appears to be slightly below that of last year's, mainly because barley came in at 470 million bushels, a 9 per cent decrease. Oats, however, rose to 323 million bushels, up 8 per cent, and the production of rye was slightly higher.

Although flaxseed production this year has increased slightly, the harvests of rapeseed and soybeans are expected to be lower than they were last year. But the soybean crop in the United States is expected to climb 24.2 per cent to 1.59 billion bushels, and this should take the pressure off feed grain prices this year, concludes the *Review*.

Canadian skaters do well at Prague

Lynn Nightingale of Ottawa placed first in the ladies singles event at Prague Skate in Czechoslovakia, November 9 to 11 and Robert Rubens of Willowdale, Ontario was third in the men's event.

Patty Welsh of Islington, Ontario placed thirteenth in the Richmond Trophy competition in Middlesex, England, November 5 to 6.

Seaway gives priority to vessels carrying petroleum products

The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority advised mariners on November 9 that effective immediately all vessels carrying petroleum products would be given priority on the Welland Canal and the Montreal-Lake Ontario sections of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The priority applies to vessels travelling in both directions that are involved in this trade.