

### NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL

Plans were made to establish labour-management seminars during the coming year, and to establish local productivity councils in key industrial areas at the recent meeting in Ottawa of the National Productivity Council. This was the fourth meeting of the Council, which considered a coast-to-coast programme designed to deal with the nation's productivity problems. Mr. H. George DeYoung, Chairman of the National Productivity Council, indicated that the labour-management seminars were designed to promote co-operation between the two elements of industry to meet the serious challenges facing Canada's competitive position. Plans for the establishment of local productivity councils were discussed with representatives of provincial governments. It was proposed that these councils should develop programmes suited to the needs of their respective areas in co-operation with the provincial and national councils.

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### MOROCCAN VIZIER IN OTTAWA

His Excellency, Hajj Ahmed ben Abdeslam Balafrej, Minister of State and personal representative of the King of Morocco, paid an official visit to Canada on December 1 and 2. Mr. Balafrej was accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Ben Abboud Ahmed, Moroccan Ambassador to India.

Mr. Balafrej arrived by air at Ottawa Airport on December 1. The programme prepared for his brief stay included a call on the Secretary of State for External Affairs and an official dinner given in his honour by the Government. He also paid a courtesy call on the Governor General.

Mr. Balafrej left Ottawa on December 2 for brief private visits to Montreal and Quebec.

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### CANADA COUNCIL GRANTS

Several grants aimed at encouraging Canadian playwrights and spreading a knowledge of the theatre more widely, particularly in English Canada, were announced recently by the Canada Council. A sum of \$10,000 was voted to the newly-formed Civic Square Theatre, Toronto, which, under the direction of Harvey Hart and Antony Ferry, will open in the Casino Theatre early in 1962. The Council grant will assist with the production of three Canadian plays, enable the management to bring in directors from other theatre centres, and subsidize an Easter production of a children's play by John Hirsch. Scheduled for presentation with Council assistance are John Coulter's "Riel," "A Beach of Strangers," by John Reeves, and "The Sun and the Moon" by James Reaney.

The Arts Theatre Club of Toronto will stage the work of two Canadian playwrights with the assistance of a \$2,500 grant from the Council. The Club plans to present "Nothing But Peace," by Jack Winters,

a drama based on "Lysistrata," early in January. "The Promised Land," by Howard Adilman, will be staged in April. Both productions will be in the Club's studio theatre.

Another Canadian play will be staged at the Actors' Theatre, Toronto, with the help of a grant of \$4,400 from the Council. "Exit Muttering," a new comedy by Donald Jack, will be produced by Toronto actor-director Hugh Webster. Mr. Jack's "The Canvas Barricade" was seen by many visitors to the Stratford Festival this past summer, where it was presented as the winning entry in a Canadian playwriting competition.

### SURVEY OF THEATRE FACILITIES

The Council voted up to \$4,725 to the Canadian Theatre Centre to enable it to complete a survey of theatre facilities in Canada. This survey was originally undertaken in 1959, and information has now been compiled covering all provinces but Ontario and Quebec. A report on file at CTC offices in Toronto and Montreal has already proved of great assistance to company managers planning tours across the country. The latest grant will permit the Centre to finish its survey and to make available copies in either French or English to interested companies.

Other grants made to the theatre in Canada at recent Council meeting were as follows: the Dominion Drama Festival, to help bring winners of regional competitions to the Dominion Drama Festival and defray travel costs of zone adjudicators coming to Ottawa, \$8,000; La Comédie Canadienne, to undertake a tour of "Bousille et les Justes" in French and English in the Maritimes, Central Canada and the Prairie Provinces, \$12,000; La Compagnie Canadienne du Théâtre-Club for its 1961-62 season, a supplementary grant of \$5,000; Le Cercle Molière de Saint-Boniface, to take on tour Molière's "Le Médecin Malgré Lui" to 8 centres in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, \$4,000; Théâtre de l'Egrégore for its 1961-62 season, \$4,000.

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### CANADA IN MANTLE PROJECT

Canada has agreed to take part in the Upper Mantle Project, an international scientific study of the earth's interior that will occupy a three-year period from January 1962 to December 1964. Canadian participation in the Project will be carried out by federal agencies and Canadian universities. In the Federal Government, the responsibility will fall on the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. The National Research Council will assist the universities involved by means of grants.

During the three-year period, Canada is prepared to contribute some \$3 million. Several countries, including United States and the Soviet Union, have already ratified the programme.

The Upper Mantle Project is the counterpart of the International Geophysical Year, except that scientists throughout the world will co-operate

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