

wheels of fast-moving traffic, giving an effect as deadly to the motorist as that of a freezing rain-storm. To offset skidding on icy surfaces, provincial highway crews use an abrasive material, formed from a mixture of sand and sodium chloride. The sodium chloride, through its melting effect, forms an anchor without which the sand would be whipped from the highway by the wheels of fast-moving traffic.

Abrasive materials are pre-mixed and stocked in piles within easy access of divisional highway-maintenance sectors. Almost one and a half million pounds of sodium chloride were used for ice control work during the winter of 1958-59, and some 605,000 pounds of calcium chloride.

SPREADERS

Mechanical spreaders, used by highway crews, have proved their worth. The spreader is detachable and can be adapted to fit onto the rear of any suitable truck. Generally, tip-box trucks are used. The abrasive is loaded from stock-piles into the truck box. Once on the highway, the box is tipped to induce a gravity feed through the tail-gate and onto the spreader blades. Apart from the driver, no man-power is needed, no special equipment other than the spreader. Thirty-nine tail-gate sand spreaders were in operation during 1958-59. The Department also operated 113 snow-plough units, including eleven rotary snow-blowers. Snow-removal equipment also includes a number of high-speed one-way units. Operating on bituminous surfaces, these new units cause little interference to traffic, throwing snow in one direction only.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is a vital part of the combat technique employed by Saskatchewan's Department of Highways in their war against the weather. Communications have been enhanced in some areas by the increased use of two-way radio equipment. Recently the use of long range weather forecasts, specially prepared for the Department of Highways, has enabled crews to prepare in advance for bad weather.

Despite the effectiveness of Saskatchewan's winter control programme expenditures are relatively small. Versatility of man-power and efficiency of operation make possible an immediate swing from summer to winter programmes without the costly addition of specialized personnel or machinery. All the raw materials used to provide abrasives for ice control are obtained from within the province.

The efficiency of Saskatchewan's winter road control programme can be illustrated by reference to this province's inclination to road transportation. With only five per-cent of Canada's population, Saskatchewan boasts more than 30 per-cent of Canada's total road mileages. One vehicle is registered for every 2.7 persons in the province.

TO DIRECT "KING JOHN"

Douglas Seale, prominent British director, will stage "King John" at next summer's Stratford Shakespearean Festival, replacing Tyrone Guthrie, who has been ill, as the director of the rarely-seen Shakespearean history. Dr. Guthrie will, however, stage the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "H.M.S. Pinafore" in the Avon theatre, as planned.

"Although Dr. Guthrie is making steady recovery from his illness," Michael Langham, artistic director of the Festival, explained, "it has been thought inadvisable for him to undertake more than one of the two productions he had agreed to direct at Stratford next summer. By relinquishing responsibility for 'King John,' Dr. Guthrie will gain one-and-a-half months additional rest before re-commencing active work. Rehearsals for 'H.M.S. Pinafore' will begin under his direction in mid-June, while those for 'King John' will start at the beginning of May".

Mr. Langham added that Mr. Seale had achieved a reputation second to none as a director of Shakespeare's histories. Indeed, his production of "King John" at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1957 was particularly widely praised and was one of the chief reasons for his being approached to replace Dr. Guthrie.

Another strong reason for Mr. Seale's engagement, Mr. Langham stated, was that Mr. Seale and Tanya Moiseiwitsch, who will design the sets for "King John", have already proved well-matched collaborators, as was evidenced in their joint "Much Ado About Nothing" production at the English Stratford in 1958.

Mr. Seale, at present directing "Saint Joan" at the Old Vic, has had long experience in the theatre both as an actor and as a director. In both capacities he has worked extensively at Stratford-upon-Avon and the Old Vic, as well as in London's West End and in some of the U.K.'s leading repertory theatres.

In Canada he staged Lister Sinclair's "The World of the Wonderful Dark" at Vancouver two years ago. Although he has not worked on the unique platform stage in the Stratford Festival theatre, he is well acquainted with its advantages and peculiar problems, having attended a 1957 production of "Hamlet" there.

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DIVING MARKERS

A number of organizations in Canada engaged in diving and related underwater operations have announced that in future they will display a flag signal to indicate such activities.

The signal will be in the form of a square red flag with a diagonal white stripe extending from the top of the hoist to the bottom of the fly, which may be exhibited from a vessel, barge or other marine plant, or from a floating marker. The flag will be only an indica-