

Advantages of the gas-turbine system over the conventional steam plant include an increase in top speed, the ability to operate at sea longer without refuelling, instant starting, faster response time (for instance, when a sudden threat develops at sea, full speed is immediately available.) Ships will require less time for repairs because engines will be exchanged rather than overhauled in the ship.

It will require a smaller operating crew. In accordance with practice in industry, automation can be applied effectively to gas-turbine machinery. Engine-room crews may be reduced by as many as 15 men a ship.

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NEW COMMISSIONER FOR ICC

Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced the appointment of Mr. Ormond W. Dier as Canadian Commissioner to the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam. Mr. Dier will replace early in 1967, Mr. V.C. Moore, the present Canadian Commissioner.

Mr. Dier was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1919 and graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1941. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1947. He has served with the Department in Chicago, Mexico, Caracas and Copenhagen, and, as Canadian Chargé d'Affaires, in Helsinki. In June 1964, he was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Colombia, with concurrent accreditation to Ecuador, a post he now occupies.

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LOAN TO MEXICO

The signing of an agreement to lend Mexico up to \$5.4 million to help finance a multi-million dollar electrical power expansion programme was announced recently by Robert H. Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mexico is borrowing \$156 million to finance the \$324-million project. Of this, \$118 million has been obtained from the World Bank and the remainder will be in bilateral loans from a group of countries which includes Canada.

The agreement, which was negotiated by Export Credits Insurance Corporation under the terms of the Export Credits Insurance Act, provides Canada with opportunities to sell Mexico electrical equipment valued at up to \$16.2 million. The ECIC loan would cover a third, and the World Bank loan the remaining two thirds.

Mr. Winters said the contract, as well as creating export opportunities for Canada, would assist Mexico with its imperative programme of electrical-power expansion.

This loan brings the total of ECIC agreements with Mexico, under Section 21A, to \$86 million. It will be for a term of 15 years, including three years of grace, at a rate of interest of 6 per cent a year.

STRATFORD SEASON '67

The artistic director of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, Michael Langham, recently announced plans for the company's productions in 1967. These provide for four major plays in the Festival Theatre, another in the Avon Theatre, two operas, Sunday afternoon and Saturday morning concerts and a special exhibition devoted to 100 years of theatre in Canada.

Antony and Cleopatra, directed by Mr. Langham, with Christopher Plummer and Zoe Caldwell in the title roles, opens the season on June 12, 1967. Other Shakespearean plays include *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, directed by David William, and *Richard III*, directed by John Hirsch, with Mr. Plummer in the title role. Mr. Langham will also direct Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector*, which opens at the Festival Theatre in July. The season will close October 14.

At the Avon Theatre the season opens July 7 with Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte*, directed by Jean Gascon. Mr. William will direct Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. Mario Bernardi is music director for both operas.

Oscar Shumsky, music director of the Stratford Festival, is planning a special series of eight Sunday afternoon and six Saturday morning chamber music programmes, again featuring the resident National Festival Orchestra with outstanding guest artists.

Production of *The Government Inspector*, was made possible by a grant from the Centennial Commission as part of the Festival Canada programme on the occasion of Canada's centennial celebrations.

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FRESHWATER JELLY-FISH

Semi-transparent, pulsating organisms found recently in Lake Wauquimagog near Loring, Ontario, have been identified as a freshwater form of jelly-fish. The animals, which are circular, half an inch in diameter, and fringed with hair-like tentacles, propel themselves by contracting and relaxing their parachute-shaped bodies.

Jelly-fish have been previously identified in Ontario, but they are rarely seen, and little is known about this particular form. A report published by the Royal Ontario Museum in 1957 states they were observed in Georgian Bay at Parry Sound in 1952, and in a lake near Kingston and in Lake Nipissing in the summer of 1955. "The latter summer, like 1966, was hot, so perhaps the presence of these creatures becomes apparent only in hot, sunny years," comments John Macfie, senior conservation officer at the Parry Sound district headquarters of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Jelly-fish feed on microscopic animal life (plankton) in the water. They usually occur on the lake bottom, adhering to submerged objects, but occasionally rise to suspend themselves from the surface film.