

Canadian singer at the Met

Cornelis Ophof, a baritone with the Canadian Opera Company, will make his *début* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York during the 1975/76 season in productions of Verdi's *Aida* and *La Traviata*, and opposite Joan Sutherland in a new Met production of Bellini's *I Puritani*.

Acclaimed for his portrayal of Germont in the recent Canadian Opera production of *La Traviata* at O'Keefe Centre, the Dutch-born singer has been associated with the Company for 15 years, and has appeared during Toronto seasons in such roles as Valentin in Gounod's *Faust*, Eisenstein in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*, Enrico in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Amonasro in *Aida*, and Figaro in Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. During the Company's national tour he also performed Malatesta in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

Mr. Ophof came to Canada from his native Holland in 1949, embarking on a singing career five years later. After initial training in Vancouver with Dutch soprano Catharina Hendrikse, he was awarded scholarships for two years of study at the Royal Conservatory Opera School in Toronto, and



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subsequently won first prize in the 1960 CBC Classical Talent Festival. Early professional experience was gained in numerous performances with the Canadian Opera Company and in CBC Radio and Television opera and concert work.

In 1965 the baritone joined Joan Sutherland on an extensive tour of Australia, singing Germont, Belcore in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Enrico, and Valentin. He subsequently recorded Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda* with Miss Sutherland for London Records, and appeared in the title role of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* during the 1966 Stratford Festival.

Facelift for Alberta House, London

Renovations at Alberta House in London, England, were completed on October 17. The renovations to the building, located at 37 Hill Street, were one phase in an upgrading program announced some time ago by Alberta's Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister, Don Getty.

Some 500 original pieces of Alberta art went on permanent display at Alberta House, including paintings, photographs, sculptures, handwoven tapestries, porcelain and clay ceramics and pottery. The art depicts the physical environment, moods and spirit of the province, in styles ranging from representational to contemporary, by a cross-section of Alberta artists.

Mr. Getty, representing the government of Alberta at the opening ceremony, said that the occasion signified the aim of the Alberta government to strengthen and expand social, cultural, economic and commercial ties between Alberta, Britain and Continental Europe.

employees, when they are not serving the public, to perform internal duties in the official language of their choice, and above all, to deal with their supervisors on matters that affect them personally in the official language which they find most convenient.

Progress towards a bilingual Public Service

A speech by Jean Chrétien, President of the Treasury Board, to the Club Richelieu, Grand'Mère, Quebec, on November 5 dealt with the recognition by the Federal Government of bilingualism as an essential qualification for certain positions in the Public Service. Part of his address follows:

...In the past, the system discriminated in favour of anglophones over francophones, favoured men over women and worked against the native people. Thanks to the efforts of the Public Service Commission, encouraging progress has been made in the participation of francophones. The Government remains committed to achieving, within the merit principle, full participation in the Public Service by members of both the anglophone and francophone communities.

We are now in the process of identifying the number of bilingual positions in the Public Service. The language requirements of all positions are being identified at the same time. The re-

sults of this identification will soon be made public.

In addition, a good number of positions in the national capital region for which English was previously an essential requirement will be open to unilingual francophones in the future.

In describing the Government's policy a clear distinction must be made between the language of service and the language of work. The citizen's right to communicate with and receive service from his Federal Government in the official language of his or her choice is clearly established by the Official Languages Act. On the other hand, language of work refers to the prerogative of Federal Government

Success of French-language units
Three years ago the Government established French-language units in which the language of work is French. At the present time, more than 33,000 employees work in these units. The success of this experiment has contributed to an increase in the use of French in many departments.

We hope to increase the number of French-language units both in Ottawa and in the French-speaking parts of Canada, that is Quebec, northern Ontario and northern New Brunswick.

Obviously the ideal is that all of the provinces should encourage the teaching of both official languages in all our schools right from the first year. As far as I am concerned the use of the two official languages is not a question of right but of an asset which enriches both the individual and our society.