

which amplify the signals, have been specially designed and constructed to conform to Canadian requirements. The St. Lawrence section will provide 120 voice-grade circuits, the greatest number so far attempted in a cable. It will also be the first link of the Commonwealth round-the-world cable system to be completed.

The section, with 20 submersible repeaters inserted in its length at regular intervals, was manufactured by Submarine Cables Ltd., of London, England, who were awarded the contract by the COTC in 1958.

The Corner Brook end of the St. Lawrence segment will connect at Hampden, Newfoundland, with the trans-Atlantic cable now being laid by HMTS "Monarch". From Grosses Roches, the St. Lawrence cable will extend over the Canadian domestic system to the COTC overseas terminal at Montreal.

The complete trans-Atlantic section, including the St. Lawrence segment, is expected to be in service by November of this year.

CANADA 1961

The 1961 edition of this popular handbook was released on July 11. Special features include chapters on the geology of Canada as it affects its modern economy and on constitutional history, as well as a new section on the Canadian family and its standard of living. Other chapters deal with the course of Canadian settlement, with government, natural resources, industry, labour, domestic and foreign trade, health, welfare and education, the economy in 1960, finance, transportation, research (with a new section on medical research), and an enlarged chapter on the arts. There are nearly 300 illustrations, 17 in full colour, including reproductions of four Canadian paintings. There are photographic spreads of modern church architecture; techniques of winter construction; new railway equipment, and forest conservation. A map of Canada is attached to the inside back cover.

IMPORTS IN MAY

Commodity imports from all countries in May were valued at a record monthly total of \$551,200,000, a rise of 6.8 per cent from last year's May total of \$516 million, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The previous monthly high was \$540 million, set in May 1957. This increase almost counterbalanced a decline of 4.3 per cent in the January-April period, and the value of imports in the January-May period was 1.8 per cent below a year ago at \$2,276,200,000, the corresponding 1960 total being \$2,319,100,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, the United States, and all other countries as a group were higher in value in May this year than last. These gains were responsible

for increased import values in the January-May period from all these areas except the United States.

Imports in May were valued as follows: United Kingdom, \$70,800,000 (\$56 million in May 1960); other Commonwealth countries, \$35,100,000 (\$31,800,000); United States, \$354,000,000 (\$344,400,000); and all other countries, \$91,300,000 (\$83,800,000).

January-May import values were: United Kingdom, \$256,100,000 (\$255,500,000 in the corresponding 1960 period); other Commonwealth countries, \$104,300,000 (\$101,900,000); United States, \$1,555,300,000 (\$1,610,100,000); and all other countries, \$360,500,000 (\$351,500,000).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claimants for regular unemployment insurance benefit numbered 341,000 at May 31, compared to 364,300 on May 31 last year. The interval during which seasonal benefit was operative terminated on May 20 this year (May 21 last year). Therefore, the count at the end of May represents claimants for regular benefit only. The claimant count at the end of April this year was 713,100, comprising 466,400 identified as regular and 246,800 as seasonal benefit. Regular claimants thus declined by 125,400 during the month, and were 23,300 fewer than at the same date in 1960. Males accounted for almost 95 per cent of the April-to-May decline in regular claimants.

The volume of initial and renewal claims at 162,100 at the end of May was almost 25 per cent below the April total of 209,600; the total for May last year was 165,600. It is estimated that close to 50 per cent of the initial claims filed in the month were from persons terminating their benefit rights and seeking to re-establish a subsequent benefit period. More than 90 per cent of the seasonal benefit claims processed in May were in this category.

The average weekly estimate of beneficiaries was 563,500 in May, compared to 708,200 in April and 560,800 in May 1960. Benefit payments amounted to \$58.7 million in May versus \$64.5 million in the preceding month and \$52.2 million a year earlier. Average benefit payment per week compensated was \$23.68 during May versus \$23.98 in April and \$22.17 in May 1960.

CHAMBER MUSIC AT STRATFORD

The first concert of the Stratford Music season took place at the Festival Theatre on the afternoon on Sunday, July 16. The concert featured the three directors of the 1961 music season, Glen Gould, Oscar Shumsky and Leonard Rose, in an all-Brahms programme consisting of the Sonata for Piano and 'Cello in E Minor, the Sonata for Piano and Violin in