

CBC sells mini-series to US

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has sold its mini-series *Empire Inc.* to a US television syndication group.

The sale is to Metromedia producers Corp., a company which owns only seven TV stations but sells its programs across the US to a network of stations — mainly independents. Each large US centre generally has at least one independent station.

Empire Inc., a six-part drama that follows a ruthless Montreal business tycoon and his wayward family from the 1920s to 1960, received excellent reviews when it was first shown on CBC in January 1983. It has already been sold to 38 other countries.

Metromedia will run the series in prime time in at least 70 per cent of the American market, probably in late winter or early spring, said Guy Mazzeo, head of CBC Enterprises, the network's sales division.

If the series does well, Mazzeo believes it could be a big break for Canadian productions in the US commercial market.

The amount CBC will be paid for *Empire* has yet to be determined. But Mazzeo says CBC's share will be at least "in the lower seven digits".

Russian musician to direct Vancouver Symphony

Rudolf Barshai, an eminent Russian musician who gained international acclaim as a violist and conductor of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, has been named music director and principal conductor of the Vancouver Symphony (VSO), effective September 1, 1985.

Barshai succeeds Kazuyoshi Akiyama, who has been music director of the Symphony since 1972. Akiyama will become the Symphony's conductor laureate beginning with the 1985-86 season.

Until he assumes his new position in 1985, Barshai will be music director designate of the VSO. He is scheduled to conduct the Symphony for a minimum of 12 weeks in each of his first three seasons and will retain his current position as principal conductor and artistic adviser of England's Bournemouth Symphony.

Barshai has led major orchestras of Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Israel and Japan as well as the National Arts Centre of Canada, the Houston Symphony and Orquesta Filarmonica de la Ciudad de Mexico.

Bicentennial exhibition celebrates Ontario artists

An exhibition, *Images of Ontario*, which illustrates Ontario's rich tradition in the visual arts during the past 200 years, opened recently at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

The exhibition of more than 60 paintings, watercolours, drawings and sculpture, drawn primarily from the gallery's permanent collection, is an opportunity to explore the works of such artists as Cornelius Krieghoff, Homer Watson, Lawren Harris, Jack Bush, William Kurelek, Gordon Rayner and Michael Snow, all of whom responded very differently to their environment.

Images of Ontario turns to the past to reveal the underlying social, geographic and cultural fabric of the province, woven from four vital strands — wilderness, farm, town and city.

Few peoples, for example, have been so profoundly influenced by wilderness as inhabitants of Ontario. Enemy to the early settler, the forest became by the latter part of the nineteenth century a retreat and, to artists such as those in the Group of Seven, a source of inspiration.

Complemented by audio-visual presentations, *Images of Ontario*, examines issues including the extent to which the artist's vision is conditioned by his own beliefs and training, and the reasons why painters



Hillside Village, watercolour on paper, by A.J. Casson.

treated Ontario's broad northland so differently in 1920 than in 1860 — a combination of artistic influences from abroad, developments in science, literature and philosophy, and technological advancements that profoundly changed the focus of their imagery.



Old Pine (1929), oil on canvas, by Arthur Lismer.