

Annual Theatre Festival Awaits Record Crowds

STRATFORD-ON-AVON, England, March 14 (Reuters)—This birthplace of William Shakespeare is once more bustling with preparations to receive a record flow of pilgrims for the 93rd season of Shakespearean plays opening at the Memorial Theatre March 13.

For nearly eight months, this little Warwickshire market town where the great poet-dramatist was born in 1564, will again teem with visitors.

The natural attraction of the Shakespeare Festival has been enhanced in recent years by the growth in its artistic prestige to a point where its performances often outshine those given in London at the old Vic.

Last year the playhouse, which was redecorated the previous winter and altered to increase the seating capacity to 1,300, accommodated the record figure of 335,000 spectators during the 31-week season.

The season this year will be 33 weeks and the theatre authorities again expect more than 300,000 spectators.

At the end of February, 70,000 tickets for the first 16 weeks of performances had been sold in Britain and abroad.

One of this season's attractions will be the first appearance at Stratford of Sir Ralph Richardson, a top-rank British actor and two other newcomers, British actress Margaret Leighton and American actress Mary Ellis.

Anthony Quayle, who has produced eight plays at Stratford since he became director in 1948, will devote himself exclusively to acting this year.

He will begin by playing the title role in "Coriolanus," which opens this year's season. Although ranking among Shakespeare's great tragedies, "Coriolanus" is comparatively rarely performed.

March 25, there will be a revival of last year's Michael Bentham's production of "The Tempest." It also is the play chosen for this year's Shakespeare birthday celebrations April 23.

Glen Byam Shaw's production of "As You Like It" will be presented April 29 and June 10. John Gielgud's production of "Macbeth" will be given.

Queen's Fine Grasp Of Affairs Of State Surprises Diplomats

LONDON, March 14 (Reuters)—The Queen has astonished British statesmen and foreign diplomats with her remarkable grasp of state affairs.

Many who were ready to treat the 25-year-old Queen as a beginner have had to make a quick reappraisal. They've found she knows almost as much as they do.

Only a month after assuming the throne, Elizabeth has absorbed intricacies of current foreign questions, knows a great deal about what is going on in the Commonwealth, and seems likely to become an expert on Britain's tricky colonial matters.

When she receives Prime Minister Churchill and her other statesmen she is reported to be confident and fluent. She questions them shrewdly and likes to be given sketches of personalities behind events.

With Parliament in session now, she daily considers reports of her ministers and holds conferences with her private secretary, Sir Alan Lascelles, chief link between the Queen and her advisers.

The young Queen also knows everything that goes on at cabinet meetings. She is supplied with every document available to top government ministers—cabinet agenda and minutes, foreign office cables, reports of cabinet committees.

Foreign ambassadors give her inside information on what is happening in their own countries.

Best-Informed Woman

All this, combined with her natural aptitude, has made her, in a matter of weeks, probably best-informed woman in the world.

But her knowledge and grasp of affairs is no surprise to men who knew her before she became queen.

Her father, King George VI, during the last year or two of his life, taught her the secrets and routine of monarchy and discussed with her—sometimes for hours at a time—world affairs, British policy and colonial problems.

Elizabeth has made one change in the routine her father followed. It is not important—except to herself and two small individuals.

The weekly audience the Prime Minister has with the sovereign used to take place at 5:30 P. M. The Queen has changed it to 6:30.

That is because the hour between 5 and 6 in the evening is time Elizabeth ceases to be a monarch and becomes a mother. She spends every minute of it with her two children, Charles and Anne.

FAMOUS CASTLE

The fortress of the Dukes of Coburg, recently restored as a museum at Coburg, Germany, dates from the 10th century.

St. Laurent, Pearson Among 27 Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize



Coal-Steel Pool Brings New Era To West Europe

PARIS, March 14 (AP)—Western Europe is moving steadily into a vast new social and economic era through its coal-and-steel pool.

The plan, launched first by Foreign Minister Robert Schuman of France, calls for each of six western European countries to stop pampering its own coal and steel industries and work co-operatively for the good of the whole.

Their aim is high, their progress so far good.

Six countries—France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg—have signed a treaty saying that they are:

1. Desirous of assisting through the expansion of their basic production in raising the standard of living and in furthering the works of peace.

2. Resolved to substitute for historical rivalries a fusion of their essential interests; to establish by creating an economic community, the foundation of a broad and independent community among peoples long divided by bloody conflicts; and to lay the bases of institutions capable of giving direction to their future common destiny.

All have signed the treaty, and the parliaments of France, Germany and the Netherlands have ratified it. The others are expected to do so without much delay.

Greater Than Soviet

These six countries produce about 38,000,000 metric tons of 2,200 pounds each of steel a year.

That is more than Russia with 31,300,000 tons, and nearly equal to Russia and its satellites. It is more than double Britain with 15,900,000.

It is far less than half that made by the United States now producing at the rate of about 98,500,000 metric tons a year.

Nevertheless, this area supplies 75 to 80 per cent of the world's export steel for countries which haven't enough steel of their own.

In part the aim of the plan is to supply world markets with steel. This area needs the money. Its intention also is to build up the use of steel within the six countries. In doing so, the planners hope to raise the standard of living of the 160,000,000 people living within the area.

Schuman

The experts are already calling this new trading and working zone, Schuman's.

Here is what they agree to do: 1. They will have a "high authority" of nine men whose job it will be to establish fair marketing practices, break up monopolistic cartels, wipe out subsidies and trade discrimination, and replace old and

Treats Out-Patients With New Efficiency

HOUNSLOW, Middlesex, England (CP)—An out-patients' department in a local hospital is believed perhaps the most modern in Britain.

Patients are treated with conveyer-belt speed and efficiency. They sit in comfortable armchairs under fluorescent lighting in a cream-walled waiting hall that holds 300.

Nearby is a restaurant. And when their turn comes, patients are shown to one of 10 cubicles that show a colored light if still in use.

The hospital overcomes one of the headaches of the national health service. At some other hospitals, patients wait on hard wooden benches, sometimes from 10 in the morning till late in the afternoon.

What About P. E. I. ?

OTTAWA, March 14—Some lucky members of the Canadian Army are going to spend the summer on the open road—but they are not going to live the life of the gypsy vagabond—they are going to work.

Each summer the Army puts on military displays at Canada's big summer fairs—the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa and the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, as well as at smaller fairs.

Previously active and reserve force personnel were called on to do the job but now each command will muster a special team for the task. Each "troupe" will go on the road with up to four officers

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Coal-Steel Pool Brings New Era To West Europe. Text describing the Schuman plan.

Greater Than Soviet. Text discussing the economic impact of the coal and steel pool.

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Smugglers Working For Troops In Korea

OTTAWA, March 14—Troops in Korea are now smoking "Smugs", thanks to a suggestion by Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence.

and "the smugglers." The men have a choice of brands of American cigarettes and nearly every man in the brigade has received five packs to date. Now they can sit back happily and watch the "smugglers" efforts go up in smoke.

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