

**Information Division, Department of External Affairs.**—The Information Division was established in its present form early in 1947 by the integration of the former Canadian Information Service into the Department. The Canadian Information Service in turn developed from the Wartime Information Service which was set up in the early years of the War of 1939-45.

The former C.I.S. functions of collecting information in many forms and supplying Canadian representatives abroad with up-to-date data about Canadian events, background material on happenings in Canada, etc., are continued by this Division. An Inquiry Service is operated which answers general questions about Canada received from abroad, and particular questions about matters of departmental concern received from within Canada. Reference materials, photographs, posters, and other graphic materials for distribution outside Canada are prepared, and books on Canada are procured for use in reference libraries abroad. Facilities are arranged for journalists visiting Canada and for Canadian speakers abroad, and cultural relations projects are encouraged. In addition to routine duties of arranging departmental press conferences, preparing press releases and obtaining information for the Department's use, the Information Division is frequently responsible for Canadian press relations at international conferences, both in Canada and elsewhere. In general, the activities of the agencies engaged in disseminating Canadian information abroad are co-ordinated by this Division.

This Division works through information officers in Canadian missions at New York, London, Washington, Paris, and Canberra, and through Canadian representatives in diplomatic and trade missions in other centres.

**Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.**—Since radio broadcasting was made possible by progress in the field of wireless telegraphy following the War of 1914-18, this medium has become a rival means of giving information to the public along with newspapers, films and other means of communication. This is true in all countries whether, as in the United States, the systems are privately owned or whether, as in Canada and the United Kingdom, they are organized on a national basis.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, since its establishment in 1936, has indeed become one of the most effective channels through which information, official and unofficial, is broadcast to the Canadian people. Because of the widely distributed population, especially of the sparsely peopled areas of the northwest and the far north, radio is relatively more important to Canada than to any other people. Without it the country could not be so effectively linked as it is, for to-day the posts of the far north can receive their news and enjoy the entertainments that the radio provides equally with their fellow citizens living in Halifax, N.S., Montreal, Que., or Vancouver, B.C.

News broadcasts and programs occupy a considerable proportion of national and regional network time. They include news, drama, informative talks, children's programs, religious programs, public services broadcasts, sports, women's activities, etc.

An important development that the War has brought about has been the world coverage of news broadcasts from international centres that are picked up by the CBC short-wave receiving stations and rebroadcast to Canadian listeners. Thus it is that CBC is taking its rightful place among the official sources of information available to Canadians.