

Section 3.—The Educational Functions of the National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The National Film Board.*—Since the beginning of the Second World War, Canada has seen a great advance in the use of films in education, both formal and informal, for adults as well as children. The National Film Board has contributed very largely to this development. It has produced and distributed more than a thousand informational films, made available to Canadian schools and adult organizations some of the better films produced in other countries, assisted in the establishment and servicing of close to 150 film libraries and depots, provided film programs regularly to several thousand rural communities, and assisted in making educational films available to hundreds of thousands of Canadian school children. In all of these activities the Board has worked closely with Provincial Departments of Education, national and provincial organizations engaged in educational work, and community organizations of all kinds. The object has been to assist all educational agencies to obtain and use visual material to strengthen their educational programs, as well as to bring to the largest possible section of the Canadian public those films that interpret Canadian and world affairs.

Film Libraries.—In Canada, the backbone of urban 16mm distribution is the film libraires that have been established throughout the nine provinces by the Board and by local bodies such as public libraries, normal schools, provincial Departments of Education, university extension departments and, more recently, community film councils. The majority of Canadian communities with populations of more than 5,000 now have their own film libraries which numbered 158 by the end of 1947. Nearly 200 Film Councils and local film committees assist in encouraging the use of informative and educational films in the community.

Special Educational Services.—Special services have been developed for industry, women's organizations, scientific and engineering groups, health and medical bodies, and in other specialized fields such as education, science, welfare, reconstruction and housing to assist in building approved programs of films and other materials for all interested organizations. To serve their film needs, the Board maintains at Ottawa a Preview Library of 2,500 titles.

Rural Film Circuits.—Rural areas which lack projectors and film libraries are served with monthly film programs by the Board's rural circuits. An increasing number of circuits are operated in co-operation with farm organizations and provincial and local governments. The careful planning of the rural film programs, together with discussion booklets for teachers and group leaders, relate them closely to the work and interests of the communities they serve. Each Rural Circuit reaches about 20 locations each month bringing a program in the afternoon to school children and in the evening to general audiences. Films are chosen for the value and interest of the information they contain. The program for schools is chosen in consultation with the Department of Education in each province. Many thousands of Canadian school children have had their first opportunity to see educational films regularly through the Film Board's rural circuits. Through their co-operation with farm organizations, extension departments of universities, and Provincial Departments of Education, Health, and Agriculture, the Board's rural representatives have come to be regarded as valued servants of the community.

* Prepared under the direction of Ross McLean, Film Commissioner, National Film Board, by Stanley Rands, Co-ordinator, Research and Reports. The non-educational services of the National Film Board are outlined in Chapter XXXI on Sources of Official Statistical and Other Information Relative to Canada.