

Most urban communities and some rural districts have a film council—a body formed by local film-using groups to sponsor a local film library, purchase projectors, organize training classes for local volunteer operators, and develop more effective use of films. The accessibility of educational films throughout Canada is due largely to the growth of the community film council movement. Community film councils are aided by the support and encouragement of provincial institutions, such as departments of education and university extension branches, and by the technical assistance of National Film Board staff.

As a result of such widespread local interest in educational films, thousands of people have been involved in the processes as well as the aims of education. In each participating group there is someone who has learned to operate a projector, to choose a film, and to integrate the film into his group's program. Some estimate of the number of people so involved may be gathered from the information that there are, in Canada, 300 film councils, each representing 10 to 200 groups, and 265 film libraries and depots. Through councils, libraries, locally operated film circuits and National Film Board rural circuits, close to a million people a month see National Film Board films.

**Problems of Film Distribution.**—While many communities have established local film services, a number of problems still hamper the application of films to community cultural purposes. The larger problem is that of obtaining appropriate subjects. As the public becomes more familiar with the role of films in community life, the taste for them becomes less easily satisfied. A group which a year ago found almost any film acceptable now asks for those that relate directly to its program. Although in the past decade the National Film Board has deposited well over 25,000 films in local libraries the demand to-day is greater than ever.

This need is being met by more specific production and by the organizing of regional and provincial film libraries on which local film borrowers may draw. University extension branches have been particularly active in trying to meet the more intensive demand for films. A joint planning commission under the ægis of the Canadian Association for Adult Education has also given considerable thought to the needs of Canadian film borrowers. By and large, however, the solution to the problem of obtaining films suited to the more specialized needs of further education rests first with production and next in larger local budgets for the purchase of films.

Demonstrations related to the use of films have helped considerably to stimulate initiative in using the films on hand. Film councils are now accustomed to organizing film workshops, festivals and institutes where the application of films educationally and culturally can be practised and studied. Provincial educational bodies often co-operate in such projects. The recent film workshops in Alberta, for example, were sponsored by film councils, while the University of Alberta extension staff and the regional office of the National Film Board provided technical instruction and other assistance. Similar support and encouragement of local initiative is evident in other provinces.

Rural film circuits are administered by the extension department of the University of British Columbia, and in the Atlantic Provinces the distribution of National Film Board films to adult audiences is directed by the Departments of Education. In some provinces, federations of agriculture assist with rural film distribution.