

at the Gallery, exhibitions of children's art, conducted tours of the Gallery's collections and educational demonstrations. Lecture tours by well known authorities are also held throughout Canada.

The National Gallery also maintains a library of art films. The facsimile colour reproductions published by the National Gallery are listed in a leaflet, available on request. The magazine *Canadian Art* (address: P.O. Box 384, Ottawa) in the founding of which the National Gallery took a leading part, has attained a large circulation.

The *Report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences* made recommendations for the extension and improvement of the Gallery's exhibition and education services; increases in funds, staff and facilities; maintenance or increase of appropriations for acquisitions; and a new building containing adequate facilities for display, storage, circulation of exhibitions and conservation of paintings. Many of these recommendations are being carried out and a new National Gallery is under construction; it is scheduled for opening late in 1959.

Further details concerning recent purchases, exhibitions and lecture tours arranged by the National Gallery are contained in the *Annual Report of the Board of Trustees*.

Section 2.—The Educational and Cultural Functions of the National Film Board*

The National Film Board, an agency of the Federal Government, was established by Act of Parliament in 1939 and reconstituted by the National Film Act in 1950. In the years since its establishment, the Board has grown from a supervisory body over Canadian Government motion picture activities to a national documentary film-producing and -distributing organization whose films about Canada are seen wherever people may freely assemble. The Board also produces and distributes filmstrips and still photos on Canadian themes in accordance with its primary function outlined in the Act "to initiate and promote the production and distribution of films in the national interest" Films are produced primarily in the English and French languages, and, whenever possible, foreign language versions are prepared to increase the usefulness of Board films in foreign countries.

The 16mm. community film program in Canada is based on a nation-wide system of film circuits, film councils and libraries, strongly supported by organizations and individuals engaged in community activities. At Mar. 31, 1958, some 478 film councils—voluntary groups promoting the use of documentary films—were serving communities throughout Canada, together with 508 film libraries and depots from which thousands of 16mm. prints are available for public circulation. These prints are acquired by purchase or by loan from the Board.

Slightly more than one-half of the 16mm. community film audience recorded by the Board during the year was reached through classroom showings, indicating further progress in the development of audio-visual aid programs in Canadian schools and universities. Another noticeable trend was the more selective use of films by community organizations and groups for particular purposes. This is attributed in part to the recent availability of Board productions which present series of film studies related to central themes. For example, a series of thirteen films, *The Commonwealth of Nations*, which examined the history and development of the Commonwealth, was given wide promotion and circulation among Canadian schools and study groups following its initial showing over English and French television networks.

Films produced by the Board are shown in commercial theatres and on television in Canada and abroad. Theatrically, films are released in the series *Canada Carries On* and *Eye Witness* (*En Avant Canada* and *Coup d'Œil* in French), and newsreel features are also regularly issued for theatrical and television purposes. Distribution of theatrical subjects is arranged by contract with commercial distributing organizations.

* Prepared, under the direction of the Government Film Commissioner, in the Research and Reports Division of the National Film Board, Montreal, Que.