

The 16mm. community film program is based on a nation-wide system of film circuits, film councils and libraries, strongly supported by organizations and individuals engaged in community activities. There are more than 700 national, provincial and community film distribution outlets from which thousands of 16mm. prints are available for public use throughout the country. These prints are acquired for circulation by purchase or by loan from the Board.

A large part of the 16mm. community film audience is reached through classroom showings, indicating progress in the development of audio-visual aid programs in Canadian schools and universities. Another noticeable trend is the more selective use of films by community organizations and groups for particular purposes. This is attributed in part to the availability of Board productions which present series of film studies related to central themes, and to the availability of a broad range of topics which include individual films particularly suited to group objectives and programs.

Films produced by the Board are shown in commercial theatres and on television in Canada and abroad and newsreel features are also issued regularly for theatrical and television purposes. Distribution of theatrical subjects is arranged by contract with commercial distributing organizations.

A substantial proportion of the Board's production and distribution program is concerned initially with television at home and abroad. Series of original films are shown regularly over English and French language television networks in Canada. Individual films from the Board's extensive general library are available to CBC and privately operated stations. Abroad, because of expanding television facilities in many countries, Board films are seen by audiences which could not otherwise be reached.

In addition to commercial distribution through theatres and television in other countries, 16mm. print circulation is carried on through posts of the Departments of External Affairs and Trade and Commerce, through National Film Board territorial offices at London in England, New York and Chicago in the United States, New Delhi in India, and Buenos Aires in Argentina, as well as through libraries operated by various education agencies. Hundreds of prints of National Film Board films are also sold in other countries each year. Exchange agreements are in effect between the Board and government film-producing organizations in other lands; this means that films of various nations are freely exchanged with those of Canada, aiding international understanding.

The National Film Board maintains a library of more than 150,000 still photographs, which are available at nominal cost to magazines, newspapers and other periodicals wishing to present current information about Canada.

Section 5.—The Canada Council

During the postwar years in Canada it was felt that it would be in the national interest to give encouragement to institutions expressing national feeling, promoting common understanding and adding to the variety and richness of Canadian life. The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences was accordingly appointed in 1949 to recommend the most effective means of supporting such institutions. The Commission reported that almost alone among the major nations of the world, Canada had no government-supported body to assist the arts, no executive body to deal with the question of Canada's cultural relations abroad, no clearing house or centre of information on the arts and no national commission for UNESCO.

As a result of recommendations made by the Massey Commission, the Canada Council was established in 1957 to promote the study, the enjoyment and the production of works in the arts, humanities and social sciences. A sum of \$100,000,000 from the public treasury was granted to the Council, one-half of which was placed in a University Capital Grants Fund to assist institutions of higher learning to expand their building facilities in the arts, humanities and social sciences and the remainder set up as an Endowment Fund providing a guaranteed annual income of about \$2,900,000.