

# Putting Films to Work

**T**HROUGH THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD, Women's Institutes can bring to their communities a very significant and popular sort of education and entertainment. It may not be practical to have films at regular Institute meetings very often, except as speakers use them to illustrate an address. The best films—and most of those issued by the National Film Board — are important enough to deserve a program all to themselves, with a discussion following the screening. And the Institutes that have made the most effective use of films have arranged regular film showings once or twice a month through the fall and winter and have had these meetings open to the community, inviting men as well as women to come and bring the whole family. (Incidentally the shows are usually held on Friday nights in consideration of school children.)

To obtain films the National Film Board tells us: "You can borrow them at nominal service charges from the 16 mm. film library that serves your local organizations." (A list of officers for different areas of the province is given below.) "Most communities have a public film service, often at the public library. If you are in doubt about the most convenient source of films, ask the National Film Board regional office or the district representative nearest you."

For Ontario the regional office address is National Film Board, 1 Lombard Street, Toronto. The district offices are located as follows:

Fort William: Fort William Public Library

Hamilton: Room 551, National Revenue Building, 150 Main St. W.

Hanover: Federal Building, 9th Avenue

Kingston: Room 275, New Federal Building, Clarence St.

London: Income Tax Building, 388 Dundas St.

North Bay: Room 205, 101 Worthington Ave. E.

Orillia: Room 201, Federal Building, 17-25 Peter St. W.

Ottawa: Excelsior Life Building, 270 Laurier Ave. W.

Toronto: Mackenzie Building, 1 Lombard St.

An important difference between the National Film Board films and the films we see in a commercial theatre or that we watch on television, is that the Film Board films are

geared to stimulate discussion and each film is accompanied by a discussion guide to draw out the views of the assembly. So, the film, not only brings us information or entertainment; it sets us exercising our minds in a day when they could easily go soft from lack of use. If we would like help in leading the discussion it is possible a representative from our district office would come in person to assist us.

It is impossible to give any comprehensive list of films available—the last catalogue contains around eight hundred titles.

In practical farming some of the technical pictures are on Weeds, The Warble Fly, Community Pastures, Rabies, one on "Poisons, Pests and People," several on farm management. "Three Farmers" gives a portrait of three farmers and three farms, one in Alberta, one in Ontario, one in New Brunswick, the different types of farming but the common philosophy of the three farmers. "The Little Acres" a vivid documentary on changing agriculture, tells the poignant story of families in Quebec—but it might be Ontario—who must leave the small farms that mean home to them. There are practical safety films too, including "One Day's Poisons", a film on poisoning accidents with children.

With confederation year just ahead we find a growing interest in Canadian history; and we have films on the confederation story and the men involved; a whole series on our history makers, our explorers and our settlers. On the natural resources and the beauty of our country we have "Trans-Canada Journey" in a jet-liner from Newfoundland to Vancouver; a tour of our National Parks in "The Enduring Wilderness"; pictures of the far North—the birds and flowers and caribou herds in "The Edge of the Barrens."

This leads into the general field of natural science and conservation. Most of us would like the color films on "Life in the Woodlot", and on birds, from the birds of the forest, the seashore and the marshes to the friendly little neighbors that nest in our trees and bird-houses.

Films on sociology deal especially with themes of prejudice and rehabilitation. Our growing interest in our Indians and Eskimos has created quite a demand for the picture "Northern Campus", made at the Yellowknife school for Indian, Eskimo and white children. There are several pictures about New Canadians, why they came to Canada, some of