

FILM OF THE YEAR

The National Film Board production "Universe" has been named Film of the Year in the thirteenth annual Canadian Film Awards. This is the first time in three years that the special citation for Film of the Year has been awarded. The special award was presented by J. Alphonse Ouimet, President of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, at the Awards luncheon in the ballroom of the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on May 13.

A special award was presented to Dr. A.W. Trueman "in tribute to his many years of practical and thoughtful encouragement in the art of documentary film-making and in the field of distribution". Before his appointment as Director of the Canada Council, Dr. Trueman was Government Film Commissioner and Chairman of the National Film Board.

Tony Collins, an amateur film-maker from Vancouver, British Columbia, accepted the trophy awarded by the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada for the best amateur film, "Ringers Required." Awards of merit were presented to the five best amateur films.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO CUBA

The appointment was recently announced of Mr. George P. Kidd as Ambassador of Canada to Cuba. He replaces Mr. Allan Anderson, who has reached retirement age. Before his appointment, Mr. Kidd was the External Affairs member of the Directing Staff of the National Defence College in Kingston. He is taking up his new duties this month.

Mr. Kidd was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on June 6, 1917. In 1939 he graduated from the University of British Columbia, completing post-graduate work at the University in 1940 and at the University of Illinois in 1940 and 1941. He served overseas with the Cameron Highlanders during the war receiving his discharge in 1946. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1946. He served abroad at Warsaw from 1947 to 1949; in Paris from 1949 to 1951; and at Tel Aviv as Chargé d'Affaires from 1954 to 1957. Mr. Kidd attended the National Defence College in 1951 and 1952. He returned to the Colleges as a member of the Directing Staff in 1959.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claimants for unemployment insurance benefits at the end of March numbered 838,000, a decline of 34,000 from the 872,800 recorded on February 28 and virtually unchanged from a year earlier. Claimants for regular benefits, at 572,200 on March 31, were about 51,000 below the February 28 total of 623,300. On March 31, 1960, regular claimants numbered 574,500. Seasonal-benefit claimants, totalling 265,800 on March 31, were about 16,000 higher than on February 28 and about 17,000 above March 31, 1960.

As of March 31, the average claimant had been on continuous claim about 13 weeks; the record was somewhat shorter (12 weeks) for male claimants, in contrast to over 14 weeks for female claimants. Initial and renewal claims filed during March totalled 259,400, compared with 234,600 in February and 283,500 in March 1960. The failure rate, 7.0 per cent on initial claims processed during March, was unchanged from last year but slightly below the 9.0 per cent for February.

The average weekly estimate of beneficiaries was 807,100 for March, 9 per cent above the February estimate of 737,400. In March last year the estimated total was 733,000. Benefit payments amounted to \$85,200,000 during March as against \$71 million for February and \$74,800,000 for March 1960. The average weekly benefit was \$23.99 for March, \$24.07 for February and \$22.20 for March 1960.

MEDICAL PLANNING FOR WAR

Organization of the health professional manpower and the provision of medical supplies for wartime emergencies and the rehabilitation period following were two of the main problems discussed when the newly-established Emergency Health Services Advisory Committee met for the first time in Ottawa on May 29 and 30. Members included representatives of the Canadian medical, dental, nursing, pharmaceutical and veterinary associations, together with federal medical officers and officers of the Canadian Forces Medical Services. Cabinet authority had been granted for the establishment of this Committee, which replaces the Defence Medical and Dental Services Advisory Board established in August 1949.

The Chairman was Dr. G.D.W. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health, Department of National Health and Welfare. Committee responsibilities were directed to assisting and advising Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare, in the discharge of his civil defence duties in the provision of assistance to provincial and municipal governments with regard to the organization, preparation and operation of medical, nursing, hospital and public-health services in an emergency.

A close examination was also carried out of steps necessary to establish liaison with national medical and allied professional agencies across Canada to carry out the research and co-ordinated planning necessary to provide emergency health services and supplies under emergency conditions.

NEW DWELLINGS

Starts on the construction of new dwellings in urban centres of 5,000 population and over in April numbered 7,339, compared to 5,092 units a year earlier, bringing the January-April total to 20,559 units from 13,940 a year ago. Completions in these centres totalled 5,136 units in the month against 7,341, and 21,727 units in the four months against 29,100. There were 43,658 units in various stages of construction in these areas at the end of April this year, compared to 44,579 at the like 1960 date.