

Contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recently announced that the major part of Canada's contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had been handed over to the United Nations. Canada's total contribution this year will, subject to Parliamentary approval, amount to \$1,600,000, divided between cash (\$700,000) and flour (\$900,000). Since UNRWA began its relief, health and education programs in 1950, the Canadian Government has contributed over \$30 million, an amount which ranks Canada as the third largest contributor to the fund.

Canadian film agreement

An agreement has been reached between Canadian-owned distribution companies handling Canadian feature films and the two largest theatre chains in Canada, Famous Players Ltd., and Odeon Theatres (Canada) Ltd., concerning the showing of Canadian feature films produced or dubbed in English.

Under the terms of the agreement, the films will be guaranteed at least two weeks' theatre time in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Successful releases in these cities will assure further distribution in 18 to 20 other cities in Canada served by the two chains, and a good response in these cities would automatically lead to the film being screened as widely as possible across the country.

In principle, the responsibility for meeting this agreement has been split between Odeon and Famous Players in the proportions of one third and two-thirds respectively.

Canadian-owned distributors have agreed to provide special publicity in

support of these films to make sure they reach the audience for which they are intended. To assist the distributors the Canadian Film Development Corporation has agreed to increase its investments in the films in order to share with them and the producers the costs of initial promotion.

In making the announcement, Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner pointed out that the agreement had been reached under the auspices of the Film Advisory Committee, which is responsible to him for advice on film matters.

Mr. Faulkner has requested the Committee to keep watch on the development of this agreement, adding that although it represented an interesting step forward, there were many more problems in the area of distribution on which he was awaiting advice from the Committee. He stressed that, in his judgment, Canadian films were not yet receiving a fair and adequate exposure throughout the country.

Stamp honours suffragette

Postmaster General André Ouellet has announced the issue on August 29 of an 8-cent stamp commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the birth of



Nellie McClung, an advocate of social reform and women's suffrage in Canada.

"Nellie McClung can rightly be considered one of the pioneers of the feminist movement," said Mr. Ouellet. "Her successful leadership in the cause of political equality for women and her own, precedent-setting achievements in public life helped to open the way for Canadian women to participate

fully in the political affairs of their country."

The suffrage movement begun in the 1880s had made little progress in Canada by the turn of the century. Nellie McClung helped to change that by her vigorous campaign in Manitoba which led to that province becoming the first to grant political equality to its women in 1916. This provided the impetus for similar suffrage legislation passed by Saskatchewan and Alberta the same year, which was followed by British Columbia and Ontario in 1917, Nova Scotia in 1918, New Brunswick in 1919, Prince Edward Island in 1922 and Newfoundland in 1925.

In 1929 Mrs. McClung was one of five women, led by Judge Emily Murphy, who won the Privy Council decision which established that women could be appointed to the Senate, a privilege previously denied them despite their right to vote and hold public office.

As well as her achievements in the cause for women's suffrage, Mrs. McClung attained a position and honours in public life never previously matched by a Canadian woman. Her efforts during the First World War were rewarded by an appointment to the Canadian War Conference in 1918. In 1921 she was the first Canadian woman to attend as a delegate an international ecumenical conference of the Methodist Church. That same year she was elected to the Alberta Legislature, where she sat as a member until 1926. From 1936 to 1942 she served as the first woman member of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's board of governors. She also served as a Canadian delegate to the League of Nations in 1938.

Nellie Letitia Mooney was born October 20, 1873 at Chatsworth, Ontario. When she was seven she moved with her family to Manitoba where, in 1896, she married Robert Wesley McClung. She died in Victoria, British Columbia on September 1, 1951.

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