

(C.W.B. June 12, 1963)

U.K. TIMBER HOUSING MISSION

A high-level group of British housing experts arrived in Canada on June 1 for an on-the-spot exam- of the latest methods and materials used in Canadian housing. During their tour, which will end on June 22, the 16 members of the group will meet Canadian housing authorities, builders, architects and timber interests for an exchange of ideas on British and Canadian building practices and housing productivity. Discussions will centre on the Canadian system of timber-frame construction and the advantages of this technique from the standpoint of efficiency, economy, speed of construction and variety in design.

MEMBERSHIP

The British group will represent national and local housing authorities, builders' associations and the timber trade. A distinguished member is Sir Donald Gibson, who was responsible for rebuilding Coventry after the Second World War and who is now Director-General of Research and Development for the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Prominent also among the group is Mr. Bruce Kennedy, President of the British Timber Trades Federation. The visitors include important representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Scottish Housing Development Department, Manchester and Yorkshire housing authorities, the British Building Societies Associations, the Federation of Registered House Builders, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, the Federation of Building Trades Employers, the Timber Building Manufacturers' Association, and the British Timber Research and Development Association.

INTEREST IN CANADIAN SOLUTIONS

The rigours of the Canadian climate have led to the development of housing providing warmth and comfort in extreme cold. Canadian housing is well known also for its modern and distinctive design. These features of Canada's housing are expected to be studied closely by the touring group of British experts. The principle of Canadian timber-frame construction as an aid to speeding up building has been under study by British authorities for some time. British architects and builders, for their part, are becoming increasingly conscious of the adaptability of Canadian timber and building methods to suit British conditions. Already there are notable instances where British housing authorities are turning to Canadian timber as the prime material in industrialized building projects involving slum clearance and redevelopment.

NEW ART PERIODICAL

The National Gallery is about to introduce a new periodical to the Canadian public. Though the principal aim of the *National Gallery Bulletin*, as this publication will be called, is to publicize scholarly research, with emphasis on Canadian art history, it will also contain articles of more general appeal.

The *Bulletin* will be bilingual in content, and will be published twice in 1963 and, it is hoped, on a more frequent basis in the future.

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The inaugural number, edited by Willem A. Blom, National Gallery research curator, features three articles by members of the Gallery staff: *European and American Painting and Sculpture*, a review of accessions since the Gallery's catalogues of 1957 and 1959, by Robert H. Hubbard, chief curator; *Un critère pour juger l'oeuvre de Borduas*, by Jean-René Ostiguy, director, Exhibition Extension Services; and *Ontario Painters 1846-1867: A Study of Art at the Upper Canada Provincial Exhibitions*, by J. Russell Harper, curator of Canadian art. Mr. Harper's article includes a list of amateur and professional artists and art judges of that time.

Subsequent issues of the *Bulletin* will include contributions from art historians and scholars both in Canada and abroad.

ITALY HONOURS COMFORT

The director of the National Gallery of Canada, Charles F. Comfort, has been awarded the Italian "Medaglio al Merito Culturale" for his efforts to strengthen the cultural ties between Italy and Canada and for his outstanding contributions to the understanding of the arts of Italy in Canada. This is the first time a director of the Gallery has been so honored.

The honour was conferred on Dr. Comfort by His Excellency Carlo de Ferrariis Salzano, Ambassador of Italy to Canada, on behalf of the Italian Government, on June 2, the Italian national day.

Dr. Comfort's associations with the arts of Italy began 25 years ago, when he studied the frescoes of Pompeii. As professor of art and archaeology at the University of Toronto for some years, he taught the history of painting techniques, a specialty that took him to Italy many times to study that country's monuments. In 1952 he made a special study of the methods of restoration applied to Raphael's large fresco in the Vatican, *The School of Athens*.

During the Second World War, Dr. Comfort spent 14 months in Italy. His book "Artist at War" describes the great monuments of Western European art in Italy as they appeared to him then.

As director of the National Gallery, Dr. Comfort has co-operated with the Italian Government in several important cultural exchanges - for example, Canada's participation in the Venice *Biennale* (1962), the Italian Book Exhibition (1962) in Canada, which opened at the National Gallery, and a lecture in connection with the observance of the Centennial of Italian Unification (1961).

FISHERIES SCHOLARSHIPS

The winners have been announced of scholarships totalling more than \$25,000, awarded each year by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to students doing research pertinent to fisheries at Canadian universities. The scholarships, valued at \$2400 each, are awarded for scholastic ability and are administered through the Awards Office of the National Research Council.