

From clothing to comic-strips, the products in daily use throughout Canada are much the same as those in the United States. The great majority of films shown are products of Hollywood, although an increasing audience is being found for European pictures, both English and continental. The largest trade union bodies are the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour. Both these organizations include unions which are affiliated with their American counterparts.

### The Canadian Standard of Living

From a material standpoint, Canadians enjoy a high standard of living, a North American standard similar to that achieved by the industrial economy of the United States. One out of every seven Canadians drives his own automobile, and there are about eighteen telephones for every twenty-five households. In 1948 nearly two million licenses for private radio receiving sets were issued. Refrigerators, washing-machines, oil furnaces, sewing-machines, and mechanical devices of all kinds are common in Canadian homes, both urban and rural.

### Canadians Get Together

Readily apparent in the Canadian pattern is the fact that the people are gregarious; throughout the country are countless associations, clubs, and societies, for athletic and recreational activities, for community service, for study and debate. Churches have been centres of social life since pioneer days; in more recent years community centres have been built in many villages, towns, and urban districts, but these facilities have encouraged rather than supplanted such traditional amusements as the sleighing party, the corn roast, or the hike. Pleasure is mixed with work when the maple trees are tapped in the spring, and the sap boiled down to sugar and syrup; and when a farmer builds a new barn, the "barn raising" may still be a community, and a festive project. Agricultural fairs in the autumn are highlights of the rural year; at these farm produce and farming skills are judged, and livestock entered in competition. The annual Calgary Stampede, which combines pageantry with vigorous competition, reflects the life of the western ranches.

### The Great Outdoors

The lives of Canadians are strongly affected by the distinctive environment in which they live. In all seasons they are drawn to the open country, to the lakes and rivers, woods and mountains, of their vast land. For a surprisingly large income group, the summer cottage, owned or rented, is a cherished institution. In summertime, Canadians are especially fond of camping, and the more intrepid pack tents and spend vacations in exploration of the hinterland; they emulate the native Indians in their handling of canoes, in their mastery of wilderness conditions, in their hunting and fishing skills. Almost as soon as a child can walk he takes to skates and sleigh; skiing and ice-hockey are popular winter pastimes from coast to coast and young and old alike are absorbed in following the fortunes of local and national hockey teams. Football in the autumn, and baseball in spring and summer, arouse equally keen interest, and more individual pursuits, such as golf and sailing, bowling and tennis, are widely enjoyed.