

News of the arts

Political cartoon exhibition

Some 50 cartoons by Albéric Bourgeois were on view at The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts this month in an exhibition that recalled federal, the province of Quebec and the city of Montreal politics from 1925 to 1952. The exhibition will go on tour throughout Canada.

Albéric Bourgeois Makes Game of Domestic Politics, is made up of



Les taxes (1935).

works created for the Montreal French newspaper *La Presse*.

Among the political leaders depicted in the cartoons are Maurice Duplessis, Mitchell Hepburn, Adélar Godbout, Mackenzie King, R.B. Bennett, Alexandre Taschereau, Sir Lomer Gouin, and Camillien Houde.

The artist

Bourgeois, born in Montreal in 1876, was awarded first prize by the Arts



Albéric Bourgeois (1896-1962).

Council in 1899. He began his career as a cartoonist in the United States with *The Boston Post*, taking part in creating a feature called *The Education of Anney*. He also painted frescos at the Boston Opera. In 1904, at the insistence of Israël Tarte, he joined the staff of *La Patrie* in Montreal. For the newspaper, he created Timothée and La famille Citrouillard and helped Tarte in his campaign against Sir Wilfrid Laurier. A year later, Bourgeois joined *La Presse*, where he did an illustrated feature called Baptiste. Four years later, he gave Baptiste a companion, Catherine. For nearly 50 years, Baptiste and Catherine engaged in a long series of adventures. Baptiste evokes the wiles and intelligence of the French-Canadian while Catherine demonstrates vivacity and fundamental good sense.

"Your problem," Bourgeois used to



Baptiste and Catherine (1924).

tell young reporters, "is that you take yourselves too seriously. You want to write and you no longer know how to laugh."

He was a keen observer of life and, with his cartoonist's pen, "complained louder alone than all the rest of the press of the period," says Roger Champoux, former chief editorialist of *La Presse*, who worked with Bourgeois for many years.

The cartoons in the exhibition deal with federal-provincial relations, elec-

toral *mores*, federal and provincial elections, women's suffrage, the problems of Montreal, and taxes. The artist's production on these subjects was at its peak from 1925 to 1952. He died in 1962.

Britain salutes Canadian film animators

Canadian film animators are in the spotlight in Britain this summer with two major expositions featuring the work of film-makers at the National Film Board of Canada.

The Scottish Arts Council is staging a summer-long "Norman McLaren celebration" featuring sketches, interview materials and films made by the man who pioneered film animation at the NFB, when John Grierson brought him into the newly-formed Board in 1941. The exhibit opened a four-week stay in Glasgow on May 18 and will be in Edinburgh from June 18 to July 9. It will then go on to the Aberdeen Art Gallery. Later, the Inverness and Sterling Universities are to present the film programs for smaller groups.

Entire period spanned

In London, the National Film Theatre opened a one-week presentation on June 8 during which almost 100 animation films spanning the entire period from the early days of the NFB to the present were shown.

The National Film Theatre says, "this retrospective of the outstanding animated films made by the National Film Board of Canada is the most comprehensive tribute ever mounted to what is one of the largest and most influential animation producers in the world."

A Canadian first

Dr. David Feuerwerker, became the first Canadian on June 9 to win a prize from the Academie Française, the 342-year state academy for French writers in Paris. Professor Feuerwerker, of the University of Montreal, won the Prix Broquette-Gonin, worth \$450, for his historical book on the emancipation of French Jews, which he had worked on for over 40 years. He came to Canada from France 11 years ago.