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*"The National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are the shapers of Canadian identity. Those agencies are as important in this century for tying the nation together as the railway was in the last century."* JOHN GRIERSON

## The National Film Board



Motion pictures on small screens or large, is the peculiar medium of the 20th Century. Institutions, and nations, which came together in the past find it difficult to adapt to the graphic fact rather than the written word. Canada is a nation which is still coming together. It has used and to some degree has pioneered in the use of film to tell itself and others what it is trying to do.

In this issue, *Canada Today/D'Aujourd'hui* examines the storied if brief past, the present, and the probable or improbable future. To a degree, all three eras bear the mark of one man who was a Canadian though not by birth, John Grierson, for whom an inadequate identifying description is that he invented the word "documentary" to describe nonfictional film exposition. Mr. Grierson was among other things a phrase maker, a Twentieth Century man whose thoughts were most often ahead of his time but whose words had the style and thunder of the Bible-quoting past.