

## RECIPE FOR MAPLE MAGIC

Take a few warm, sunny, early-spring days, mix with some crisp, clear nights, spread gently over a few woodlot acres of rock-hard sugar maple trees and you have the makings for genuine, old-fashioned Canadian maple syrup.

Other items needed are spotless pails to catch the sweet sap as it drips from the spigots inserted into small holes drilled in the rough tree bark, a strong horse to pull the sled carrying the collecting tank, and a shed - well stocked with seasoned logs of birch, maple and ironwood - for boiling down the sap to the consistency of syrup or taffy.

Together with these basic ingredients add a few pairs of snowshoes, a score or more happy, laughing children, a patch of clean, pure snow to instantly solidify into taffy the thick boilings thrown in jagged splashes from a steaming pan, an excited dog with a snow-covered muzzle, and, for good measure, the magic atmosphere of a landscape stirring anew after three months in nature's "deep-freeze".

### THE TASTING

To serve, hold "open house" for friends and visitors from miles around, have ready a big log-built hall with open fireplace for partying; eat, drink, dance and make merry; add sleigh-rides, tobogganing, snowball fights; spread over all the sweet smell of woodsmoke mixed with the rising steam from the



Collecting the sap

sap-house, and then, as the maple juice boils down to syrup, distribute little wooden paddles to everyone so that all may dip into the big pot and taste the first nectar of a new season.

Such is the recipe for *sugaring-off* in Eastern Canada - a traditional ceremony and business that harvests the year's first agricultural crop and ushers in spring and the long days of summer that will soon bless a rich and fertile land. (From National Film Board Photostory No. 489.)

## CANADA-FRANCE JOINT COMMISSION

The Canada-France Joint Commission established by the Franco-Canadian Cultural Agreement of November 17, 1965, held its third session in Paris on February 18. This session was chaired by M. Jean Jurgensen, Minister Plenipotentiary, head of the American desk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. André Bissonnette, Canadian Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, led the Canadian delegation, which comprised representatives of the organizations concerned as well as officials from New Brunswick and Ontario.

The delegations reviewed the cultural, scientific, technical and artistic relations between the two countries since the Commission's previous session. They studied the possibilities of developing cultural exchanges (films, radio, television, books, various missions), scientific exchanges (pure and applied sciences and social sciences), university exchanges (scholarships, assistants, professors, artistic exchanges, tours and exhibitions), technical co-operation (exchanges of trainees in the private and public sectors), youth exchanges and the promotion of the French language.

The Commission also discussed the renewal of the agreement between the National Research Council and the Direction générale des relations

culturelles, the adjustment and the reorganization of procedures applicable to scientific exchanges, an increase in the number of Canadian and French scholarships, co-operation in the promotion of the French language, an increase in the number of Canadian officials in training at the Ecole Nationale d'administration, the development of youth exchanges, exhibitions of Indian and Eskimo works of art in France and the exhibition of French ceramics in Canada, a tour of the Grands Ballets Canadiens in France and the participation of French artists at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Ottawa.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress already made and the enlarged perspectives for Franco-Canadian cultural co-operation. It also decided to propose to the two Governments that its next session be held in Ottawa in 1970.

## TRADE OFFICE IN THAILAND

Because of the growing importance of Asia and the Pacific rim to Canada's foreign trade, the Canadian Government has expanded its operations in that area with the opening of a trade office in Bangkok.

In making this announcement recently, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry and Trade and