



CANADIAN NATIONAL

Canada's people live in bunches, scattered across a vast land. They have been held together by visible and invisible lines of communication, often publicly sponsored. The transcontinental railways — the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National — came first. (The CP's last spike was driven at Craigellaichie, B.C., November 7, 1885.) They were joined in this century by aeroplanes, telephones, radio and television. (The sedate train passengers pictured are listening to one of the first radio broadcasts.) The National Film Board, founded by John Grierson in 1939, continues to turn out first-rate documentaries. In the letter, upper right, Grierson made his first attempt to resign but was persuaded to hang on through the war.

Technological advances continue apace — television programs now bounce off satellites and radar monitors air traffic in the Arctic.

201007

NATIONAL FILM BOARD
CANADA

Ottawa, November 27, 1940.

COPY

Hon. Jas. A. MacKinnon,
Chairman,
National Film Board,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. MacKinnon:

When I accepted the Film Commissionership, I did so for only a short period. The idea was that I should initiate the work of the Board and outline some of its possibilities. I indicated my view that when the speed trials of the Board, so to speak, were over, the job should be handed over to a Canadian.

That short period has now become a year, though four months of it were spent on assignments in Australia and New Zealand. I have stayed so long because the work was immensely interesting and fruitful. Few countries have been so progressive as Canada in this matter of government films. Particularly in the other Dominions, they are watching closely this attempt to develop the film as a national instrument of information. I have naturally been anxious to do what I could to ensure a strong start.

We have now arrived at the end of the trial phase and approach a new one. It is, I know, the proper time for me to hand over the Commissionership to more native hands. I accordingly advise you that I shall not desire to continue the Commissionership after January. The Board has been kind enough to ask me to remain, but I know my decision to be a wise one; and it is definite.

It may be useful if I take this opportunity to review the work of the Board and indicate where I think its problems in the future will arise.

It is general knowledge that the National Film Board has made considerable changes in the handling of government films. The needs of the Ministry of National War Services and of Information have given it a great opportunity to show its power. It has been the driving force in a program of film production and distribution which has secured some notable results.

Every month for the past eight, a film on the war effort has gone into practically every theatre in the country, and the machinery is set for

PAC, C-105527



VANCOUVER CITY ARCHIVES

TELEGRAM.

For the use of the Commission of Lengthy Address, or for messages to agencies.

St. Hon. Sir
J.A. Macdonald
K.C.B.

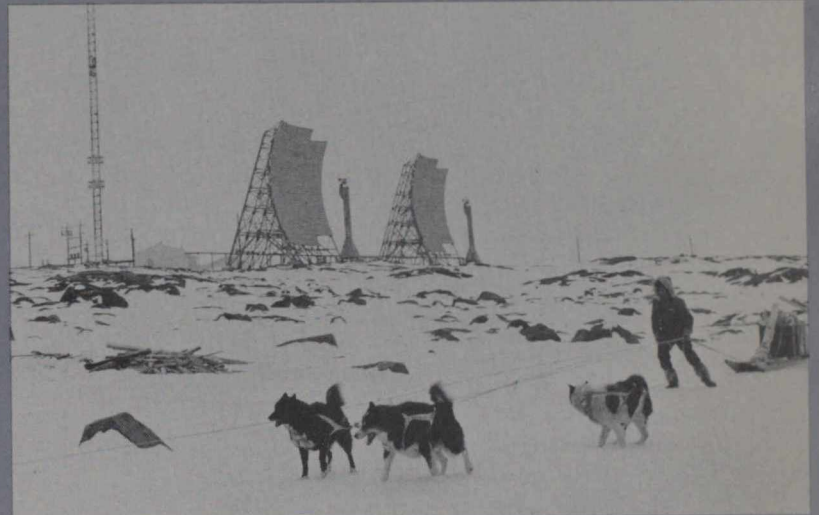
3-27-40
Sums

Ottawa, 188

Craigellaichie B.C. pass B.C.

Thanks to your far seeing policy and unwavering support the Canadian Pacific Railway is completed. The last rail was laid this (Saturday) morning at 9:22

M.C. Vetterline



NFB PHOTOTHÈQUE

November / Novembre 1984

CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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	Veterans Day Remembrance Day Jour du souvenir												
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								Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)					
	25		26		27		28		29		30		