



A scene from *La Faim*, produced by the National Film Board of Canada, which won the Special Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

offices, covering all the nation's six regions, and many public libraries stock NFB films. There are over 2,000 English and French titles listed in the current film catalogue. Films were booked out almost 400,000 times this past year.

The Canadian travel film program, initiated some 30 years ago in the United States to promote travel to Canada, now includes Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Japan. A similar program at home, the In-Canada travel program, exists.

The Board's production facilities are being "regionalized" to bring filmmakers in closer association with the people of the various regions. The Vancouver production office has been expanded, one in Halifax opened in 1973 and a Winnipeg office opened recently.

TV screenings

Some of the Film Board's recent highlights include the two successful 13-part television series, *Adieu Alouette* and *West*, which both drew instant praise when presented over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation TV network. A new series focusing on the coastal peoples of Canada will make its television debut in 1975.

One of the most pleasing tributes of 1973 was the telecast of the Board's highly acclaimed and unforgettable feature film *Mon Oncle Antoine*, which was viewed by more than 2.5 million people, the second highest rating in the history of the CBC's French network, Radio-Canada.

Award-winning NFB filmmaker Bill

Mason's full-length nature feature, *Cry of the Wild*, created quite a stir across North America as both a critical and box office success.

To encourage Canadians to learn a second official language the NFB has produced a series of films on language-learning that are being distributed with suitable teacher-support material. And in keeping with Canada's multicultural character, films about the major ethnic populations are being made. The Film Board is now distributing in Canada almost 900 prints of 356 films in 19 languages.

In co-operation with the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Film Board has compiled a package of films on the drug problem, which is now available. It will soon be enlarged to include films on alcohol- and tobacco-addiction.

Festival showings

Last year the Film Board participated in 62 festivals and took 54 major awards. For the second time it won the prestigious Palme d'Or award at Cannes for the animated short *Balablok*.

The British Film Institute also honoured the Film Board with a two-week retrospective of films, preceded by Britain's Society of Film and Television Arts awarding Canada the coveted Robert Flaherty Award to the NFB film *Grierson*, as the best feature-length documentary. Another impressive tribute came from the University of Miami, which presented the Film Board with its award for "distinguished contribution to communication arts".



NFB produced *Cry of the Wild*, a successful full-length film.

Governor General improving

Governor-General Jules Léger continues to improve from the stroke he suffered on June 8.

An aide to Mr. Léger, Roger Nantel, stated on June 14 that, although paralysis exists in the left hand, the Governor General was "completely lucid", that he was able to walk and that he was "continuing to improve to the satisfaction of his doctors".

Increases in air fares probable

The chairman of Air Canada, Yves Pratte, expects a further increase in fares on the airline's domestic and international services. Air Canada announced a 10.5 percent general increase in January. Mr. Pratte said that costs may force another rise soon. He expects members of the International Air Transport Association, meeting in Florida later this year, will also agree to higher international fares beginning in October. North Atlantic fares have risen by nearly 25 per cent in the past year.

Manitoba merit system for good drivers

Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act introduced into the Manitoba legislature by the province's Highways Minister, Peter Burtniak, include a provision for merit points for drivers who have good driving records.

"A driver would receive one merit point for each two years' driving without an accident or motor vehicle conviction. Drivers can accumulate up to five merit points, which will be used to offset any demerit points a driver receives. One merit point will offset two demerits.

The merit points, which will appear as stars printed on the licence, will not apply to a learner's licence or to a person whose licence has been suspended or cancelled any time in the two-year period.

The amendments also cover the "class" system of drivers' licences to be introduced next year. There will be only one form of driver's licence marked to indicate the class to which it belongs. The seven classes will allow drivers to operate various sizes and kinds of motor vehicle.