

and French networks. Both networks also carry the Saturday afternoon opera broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

One of the strongest arguments advanced for the creation of a nationally-owned broadcasting system was that it would be a powerful means of education. This is kept constantly in mind by officials of the Corporation, and many programs are planned in cooperation with public bodies with this end in view.

The CBC has endeavored to provide a constant flow of informative talks on a very wide range of subjects . . . . home economics, Canadian art, the pros and cons of world government, child care, special series for women on building a happy home life, Canadian literature, popular science . . . all these and many more. The CBC Talks and Public Affairs department regularly plans and supervises from 30 to 40 quarter and half-hour broadcasts weekly on national and regional networks, not including daily commentaries on purely local topics.

Important questions of the day are presented to listeners in the form of commentaries, discussions, quiz shows, interviews, and documentary or semi-dramatized programs. It has been found that many programs in the field of public affairs have audience ratings on a par with many commercial programs designed only as entertainment.

One of these is "Citizens' Forum", listened to each week during the fall and winter season by organized groups all across the country. The program is presented in cooperation with the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and consists of study bulletins to provide information, and broadcasts to stimulate discussion. Each week, listening groups report their opinions, which are summarized on the air the following week. Several times a year, a national report of forum opinion is broadcast, presenting a valid summary of Canadian opinion on important subjects.

In December 1947, Citizens' Forum became part of a type of radio service new to the North American continent -- CBC Wednesday Night. In the belief that a considerable number of listeners would welcome a whole evening on one network of a more advanced and challenging type of broadcasting, the CBC has devoted Wednesday evening on its Trans-Canada network since December, 1947, entirely to non-commercial programs designed to be stimulating, substantial, and at times more demanding on the attention of the listener. CBC Wednesday Night includes radio fare that is unusual and significant. On different weeks it offers works that are new or seldom heard on the air. Types of performances vary, with the criterion being the interest and quality of the work and of the production, and items are chosen for imagination, humor, and lightness of touch as well as for serious value. Wednesday Night programs regularly include good music by various groups of different sizes and kinds, and recitals by distinguished artists, Canadians as well as those from other countries, who have acquired an international reputation. The CBC believes that it is to the general advantage of broadcasting and the listening public to endeavor in this way to show wider possibilities of radio as a force in the cultural life of Canada.

#### Political and Controversial Broadcasts

The CBC has a heavy responsibility in connection with broadcasts in which opinions are expressed, and its policy in this regard has been laid down in a White Paper on Political and Controversial Broadcasting.