

### CANADIAN ART IN OTTAWA

An exhibition of works by the Canadian Group of Painters opened on February 8, at the National Gallery of Canada where it will remain until March 3. The Group, the present membership of which is 73, was incorporated in 1933. Its creation was inspired by the spirit of the pioneering Group of Seven (1920). Members foster co-operation between younger and older artists and invite contributors to each exhibition, in addition to displaying their own works. The paintings of 40 members, as well as those of nine invited contributors, comprise the present exhibition. The guest contributors are Richard Ciccimarra, Pierre Gendron, Sherry Grauer, D. Mackay Houstoun, U.G. Maibauer, Gray J. Mills, Betty Mochizuki, Tony Onley and John Snow.

The 68 works in the current exhibition were independently chosen by each of the three main geographical regions - west, central, and east - into which the Group divides itself. The largest canvas in the exhibition is a triptych 72" high by 96" wide by Alexander Millar, entitled "Job".

The catalogue that accompanies the exhibition pays tribute to the late George Pepper, a founding member and past president (1959), who died in October, 1962.

### EMPLOYMENT & WEEKLY EARNINGS

Canada's industrial composite index of employment (1949=100) declined 1.0 per cent in November last, to 124.2 from 125.4 in October. The November 1961 index was 121.6. Decreases from the preceding month were recorded in every industrial division except trade, and finance, insurance and real estate; the usual pre-Christmas rise occurred in trade, and the gain in finance, insurance and real estate was fractional.

The seasonally-adjusted composite index rose to 122.1 in November, from 121.7 in October. Some advances occurred in the adjusted indexes of nearly all industrial divisions, with most of the gain occurring in manufacturing and construction. The only significant decline was in mining.

### MANUFACTURING

The increase in the seasonally-adjusted index for manufacturing reflected improvement in the durables division. Declines in iron and steel, non-ferrous metals and electrical apparatus and supplies were smaller than usual, and there was a contra-seasonal advance in non-metallic mineral products that reflected the termination of an industrial dispute.

Weekly wages and salaries in November averaged \$81.58, virtually unchanged from October but up \$2.76 from November 1961. The November payroll index declined to 238.0 from 240.1 in the preceding month, but at this level it was 5.7 per cent higher than a year earlier.

### HANDY DISTRESS BEACON

A simple distress beacon developed by the Aids-to-Navigation Section of the Radio and Electrical Engineering Division, National Research Council, underwent its third and final trial in December 1962, and was acclaimed by officers of the Royal Canadian Air Force as "a potentially invaluable aid for searchers seeking distressed pilots, yachtsmen and hunters".

Waterproof and buoyant, the device is put in operation by breaking a seal and pulling out its aerial to its full length. The antenna is a quarter-wave dipole operating at 243 mc/s. The lower part is formed by a cylinder inside which are the transmitter and battery. The battery lasts 90 hours.

The complete unit weighs only three pounds, including the mercury battery supply, which weighs one pound: the unit is only 19 inches long and 2 1/4 inches in diameter.

Initial tests, conducted off Halifax, Nova Scotia, show that the maximum range of the beacon is between 30 and 34 miles. Subsequent trials were carried out over Lake Ontario. The signal from the distress beacon was operated on the M.V. "Radel II" and was picked up and identified within 35 minutes from a plane's take-off, at a distance of 27 miles. The final trials confirmed the 34-mile maximum range as well as the remarkable reliability of the device. Four times out of four tries, the distress beacon guided an RCAF "Albatross" over the Canadian Coast Guard vessel "Porte Dauphine" with pin-point accuracy.

### NEW CANADIAN ENVOY TO POLAND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced on February 4 the appointment of Mr. John Arnold Irwin as Canadian Ambassador to Poland. Mr. Irwin succeeds Mr. G.H. Southam, who returned to Canada in August 1962.

Born in Watrous, Saskatchewan, in 1917, Mr. Irwin is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. He served overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the war years, attaining the rank of squadron leader and being mentioned in despatches. Following his discharge in 1945, he joined the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Irwin went to Dublin in 1945 as Third Secretary, and later to Prague, where he served as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. from October 1949 to June 1950. Following his return to Ottawa, Mr. Irwin was a member of various delegations to civil-aviation conferences, including the fifth and sixth sessions of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization in 1951-1952. He was posted overseas again in 1953, to Djakarta.

In December 1954, Mr. Irwin was seconded to the Air Transport Board to act as Canadian Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization, an appointment which he held until August 1957. He then went to Cairo as Counsellor of the Embassy and, in 1962, attended the Imperial Defence College in London.