

SMALLPOX CERTIFICATES DISCONTINUED

Mr. John Munro, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, has announced a change in the requirements for smallpox vaccination certificates, which became effective January 18.

Travellers entering Canada are now required to possess a certificate only if, in the past 14 days, they: (a) have been in an infected area; (b) have been in an endemic area, or one in which an eradication program is being conducted; or (c) are suspected or known to have been in contact with a known or suspect case of smallpox.

The Minister emphasized that this procedure would apply only to travellers *arriving* in Canada, since each nation establishes its own requirements, and people proceeding to other countries must conform with the regulations that apply.

The report of a Canadian committee on epidemiology, which met recently, considers that all "high-risk" workers require protection against smallpox. These include doctors, nurses, hospital and ambulance personnel, transportation company employees, including airline pilots, cabin attendants, baggage-handlers, ships' pilots and crews, stevedores, customs, immigration and quarantine officers, and members of the armed forces.

One of the main reasons for relaxing vaccination rules for travelling Canadians is the success of a global program to eradicate smallpox. Parts of South America, for instance, which were havens for this disease, have had no reported cases since the beginning of May 1971. Only five countries have reported cases since last June, compared to 23 in the whole of 1970 and 42 in 1967, when the World Health Organization started its all-out fight against the disease.

As a result, a situation has now developed in certain countries whereby death has occurred more from vaccination than from the disease itself. Only one case of smallpox existed in Canada since 1947, and it was imported; there are one or two deaths annually following complications arising out of immunization.

GROWTH OF NELSON RIVER POWER

Expansion of the electrical-transmission system connecting Manitoba's Nelson River hydro-electric power-sites to the Winnipeg area was announced recently in a joint statement by the Acting Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources Otto Lang and Premier Edward Schreyer of Manitoba.

Under an existing agreement, dated February 1966, between Manitoba and the Federal Government, a high-voltage direct-current transmission (HVDC) system is being built by the latter, its costs to be repaid by Manitoba over a period of 50 years. The

contract provides for a transmission capacity of about 1,000 megawatts, and it has been agreed that the Government of Canada will complete this obligation by the purchase of a fourth "module" of AC/DC converter equipment at a cost of some \$30 million, for service in 1974. This addition will be purchased from the supplier of the first three modules of mercury arc converter equipment, English Electric - AEI Limited, and will be of duplicate design. The first three are expected to be in service early in 1972. The converter transformers, a large part of the equipment, will be supplied and manufactured in Winnipeg by FPE Pioneer Electric, which provided half of the transformers for the initial stage of development.

Since the government of Manitoba has requested that the Federal Government extend its participation in the Nelson River transmission system, the Federal Government is prepared to discuss a new agreement covering the fifth and sixth equipment modules, which will increase the transmission capacity of this 900-kilovolt direct-current transmission system to about 1,600 megawatts. In addition to meeting the power-transmission requirements of the Nelson River Development, the two governments have as an important object the extension of competence in design and manufacture in this new and important technical field of HVDC. The Federal Government in particular, is carrying on evaluation of the application of solid-state thyristor-value equipment, since there are Canadian manufacturers who wish to establish domestic capability in the design, application and manufacture of this type of converter-equipment for the transmission of power.

Because of Canada's size, the economy and flexibility of HVDC transmission is expected to be significant in the economic development of future sources of electrical energy and the interconnection of electric utility systems in adjacent regions of Canada. Recognition of the significance of the Nelson River HVDC scheme has already been accorded through the International Conference on HVDC held in Winnipeg in June 1971. Further demonstration of capability in HVDC technology will enhance Canada's ability to participate in the growing market for this type of facility on a world-wide basis.

LAURA SECORD IN BRITAIN

Laura Secord Ltd., of Toronto - one of Canada's largest makers of chocolates and confectionery - has opened a shop in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England.

The shop and warehouse will be used initially for marketing the company's products in Britain and Europe, said D.W. Hillhouse, executive vice-president, Laura Secord Candy Shops Ltd., Toronto, who went over for the opening ceremony. Later, if sales