

## DEATH RATES

The number of deaths in Canada rose slightly in 1967 to 150,283 from 149,863 in 1966, according to preliminary figures released recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan showed an increase in the number of deaths over those recorded in 1966. The national death-rate for each 1,000 of the population declined from the previous low record of 7.5 in 1966 to a new low record of 7.4 in 1967. The Prince Edward Island death-rate was highest, at 9.5, while Newfoundland had the lowest, at 6.2.

Of the 150,283 deaths recorded in 1967, 75,397, or 50.2 per cent, were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system; cancer accounted for 28,007 or 18.6 per cent, of all deaths; and accidents took 11,596 or 7.7 per cent of all lives. Corresponding 1966 figures are 75,279, 26,848 and 11,474. These have been the three leading causes of death since 1951 and there was very little change in their relative importance from 1966 to 1967. Tuberculosis deaths decreased slightly from 669 in 1966 to 658 in 1967. Fatalities from major types of accident, with 1966 figures in parentheses, were as follows: motor vehicles, 5,522 (5,410); falls, 1,704 (1,664); drownings, 1,200, (1,208); fire, 729 (661); and poisonings, 484 (471).

In 1967, there were 8,151 infant deaths, equivalent to a rate of 22.0 for every 1,000 infants born alive. The infant mortality rate has been declining steadily and the 1967 rate is the lowest on record. Of the provinces, Newfoundland was highest with a rate of 28.6, while Ontario was lowest with 19.7.

## CANADA REPAYS IMF

Mr. E.J. Benson, the Minister of Finance, has announced Canada's repurchase of \$70-million worth of its own currency from the International Monetary Fund. This repurchase, which is paid from holdings of official reserves, was made under Article V, Section 7, of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF. Canada has now completely repaid its IMF gold *tranche* drawing of last February and has acquired a small-creditor position.

The Minister also said that he had cancelled the stand-by credit from the Export Import Bank of Washington, the arrangements for which he had announced in the House of Commons on March 7, 1968.

## WHEAT FOR TUNISIA

Canada is giving \$1,500,000-worth of wheat to Tunisia. The grain, which will be shipped shortly, is part of the External Aid Office's food-aid programme for 1968-69. During the previous fiscal year, Canada provided Tunisia with a total of \$1-million worth of food aid.

At present, 46 Canadian teachers are serving in Tunisia, and 46 Canadian medical advisers are working at the Hôpital d'Enfants de Tunis.

## PETROLEUM PROGRESS

Although petroleum has been produced in Canada since 1857, it was not until the major oil discovery at Leduc, Alberta, in 1947 that the nation's hydrocarbon industry began to acquire a leading stature, according to *Facts and Figures about Oil in Canada*, a booklet produced by Imperial Oil Limited.

At the end of 1946 — the year before the company's discovery at Leduc — Canada ranked fifteenth among the world's producers of oil; 16 countries possessed greater proven oil reserves. Although Canada, with more than 12 million people, was then the world's second largest *per capita* consumer of oil products, the price was an estimated petroleum trade deficit for the year of more than \$400 million.

By the end of 1967, Canada was the ninth largest producer of petroleum in the world, and ranked eleventh in proven oil reserves. With about 20 million people, it has become the world's leading *per capita* consumer of petroleum products, using more than 800 gallons a person, while its petroleum trade deficit for the year has been reduced to \$50 million.

## FEDERAL BOND ISSUE 1968

The new issue of Government of Canada bonds dated October 1, 1968, has been allotted in a total amount of \$535 million. The amounts of the four maturities were set at:

- \$ 35 million of 6 percent bonds due February 15, 1970
- \$200 million of 6¼ percent bonds due October 1, 1971
- \$200 million of 6½ percent bonds due April 1, 1975
- \$100 million of 6½ percent bonds due October 1, 1995.

Following the issue of the above securities, the total amount of 6 percent bonds due February 15, 1970, outstanding will be \$285 million.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

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actively in international efforts to relieve the sufferings of the civilian population. The situation in Czechoslovakia has also caused the gravest concern to the Government, not only for its effects on the prospects of détente and future evolution within Communist countries, but also for its consequences for the freedom and well-being of the Czechoslovak people. For those of them who have to seek refuge in other countries, my Ministers have already taken steps to offer permanent homes in Canada.

The Government has undertaken and is pursuing a thorough review of our external and defence policies. Canada's contribution to NATO, relations with Peking, with Latin America and with Europe are being studied currently. Reviews of our relations