

posts, it is seldom possible to stay long enough at any point to deal adequately with the health problems that are presented. This voyage is the means used to get relief medical officers up to the hospitals at Chestergeld Inlet and Pangnirtung. The medical men who make the trip north on the *Nascopie* are selected from among practising doctors, who have rendered great service in this way. Several of these attended a conference which the department held in February of this year.

At that conference we tried to get together all the doctors who had had outstanding medical records and had seen service in the north; and in consequence, we secured very valuable assistance and advice from them.

All agreed that the time at their disposal in the various ports of call is inadequate and they strongly recommended that facilities be secured for extending this service. For further details please consult Appendix "E".

That appendix does give some further information on the Eastern Arctic Patrol, but particularly it gives a list of the doctors who, over the last twenty years have made this trip for us. I think that the honourable members of the Committee will observe that that list contains a roll of distinguished doctors, physicians, and specialists who have rendered this service as a service to their country; and I feel that what the government owes, and what the Eskimos and the Indians owe, to those doctors has never been adequately expressed. You will see that the list contains a number of outstanding doctors, and surgeons, of this city as well as of the other parts of Canada.

F. AIR TRAVEL

30. In recent years increasing use has been made of air travel for the transportation of patients, doctors and supplies. Prior to World War II commercial air lines were used exclusively. During the war the R.C.A.F. and U.S. Army Air Corps rendered invaluable service. In the fall of 1945 it was necessary to ship supplies into Cape Dorset where an epidemic of typhoid was spreading through the native population. At the same time there was a shortage of medical supplies at the hospital at Pangnirtung. Major Rawson who had been flown to Cape Dorset by the R.C.A.F. ordered supplies to deal with the typhoid epidemic. Arrangements were made with the R.C.A.F. to pack and ship from Ottawa via Dartmouth, N.S., and Goose Bay in Labrador, approximately 800 pounds of medical supplies. This material had to be parachuted to the landing points at Dorset and Pangnirtung. The only damage sustained was one broken glass syringe. Later it became necessary to call upon the R.C.A.F. again to pick up Major Rawson at Cape Dorset and return him to Chesterfield Inlet. The same plane carried a sick Eskimo from Cape Dorset to a hospital in Winnipeg.

31. On various occasions the U.S. Army Air Corps have evacuated patients from the Eastern Arctic to Goose Bay, from Southhampton Island to Churchill, and from stations along the Mackenzie River down to Edmonton.

32. The Indian Health Service frequently charts commercial planes for special trips to transport doctors. They use them also for the evacuation of patients for hospital treatment. Nowadays many of the treaty trips are made by plane and usually a doctor travels with the party.

33. While undoubtedly the use of air transport will prove to be a tremendous factor in any up-to-date health service of the future, it must be recognized that its use under present circumstances is very