

PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

Production of crude petroleum in March rose to 15,866,195 barrels from 14,457,598 a year earlier, placing the January-March total almost 10 per cent above last year at 48,553,943 barrels versus 44,256,614. The month's output of natural gas increased to 38,017,872 M cubic feet from 31,428,897 M a year earlier, making the three-month total one-third larger than a year ago at 121,644,007 M cubic feet versus 91,253,261 M.

The quarter's production of crude petroleum was larger this year than last in all producing areas except New Brunswick and Manitoba. Totals were: New Brunswick, 3,807 barrels (3,973 in last year's first quarter); Ontario, 246,581 (148,137); Manitoba, 1,252,778 (1,512,372); Saskatchewan, 11,671,460 (11,243,497); Alberta, 35,056,502 (31,150,548); British Columbia, 227,995 (123,574); and the Northwest Territories, 94,820 (74,513).

First-quarter output of natural gas by region was: Alberta, 87,699,743 M cubic feet; British Columbia, 18,267,094 M; Saskatchewan, 8,951,768 M; Ontario, 6,664,880 M; New Brunswick, 40,980 M; and the Northwest Territories, 19,542 M.

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INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES

An American with a long experience in fisheries has been named chairman of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. He is Mr. A.J. Suomela, Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. He succeeds Mr. Klaus Sunnana, Bergen, Norway, who held the post for two years. Mr. George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa, was named vice-chairman of the Commission.

The election of the Commission's officers brought to a close the week-long meeting from June 1 to 6, which was devoted to seeking answers to the problems in preserving the vast

fish resources of the Northwest Atlantic in which all of the 12 member countries fish.

NEW REDFISH GROUNDS

New redfish grounds, discovered by the St. John's, Newfoundland, Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, are strung along an extensive area in deep waters well off Canada's Atlantic seaboard. The total catch of redfish in the entire ICNAF Convention Area last year was 315 thousand tons, of which these newly-exploited grounds contributed over 200 thousand tons.

Major exploiters of the new grounds last year were the U.S.S.R. with landings of 109 thousand tons and Iceland with 81 thousand tons. Canadian landings of redfish in 1958 were 30,500 tons - less than one-tenth of the total landings in the Convention area.

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T. B. DECLINES

Continuing the steady improvement since the end of the Second World War, the incidence of tuberculosis in Canada showed a further drop in 1958, according to a special report on the subject released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Record low rates were recorded in 1958 in the number of tuberculous deaths, in the notifications of new active cases and in tuberculous first admissions to sanatoria.

Canada's death rate from tuberculosis dropped to 6.0 per 100,000 population in 1958 from 7.1 in the preceding year and was less than half the 1953 rate of 12.5. All provinces except New Brunswick recorded lower death rates from this cause in 1958 than in 1957.

The national notification rate of active cases stood at 44.1 per 100,000 population in 1958, a decrease of 8.5 per cent from the preceding year's 48.2. In 1953 the rate was 65.7. The reduction from 1957 was shared by all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

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