

his Department by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that the proportion of regular cigarette-smokers among men 15 years of age and over decreased from 54.6 per cent in September 1965 to 51.7 per cent in October 1968. The proportion of regular smokers among women 15 years of age and over, which increased from 30.6 per cent in August 1964 to 32.5 per cent in October 1968, changed slightly between 1966 and 1968.

## HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS ACT

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Ron Basford termed the new Hazardous Products Act, which received royal assent recently, the most important piece of consumer legislation passed by Parliament in recent years. "For the first time, it gives the Government the power to prohibit or regulate the sale of a wide-range of hazardous products," he declared. "Consumer groups and safety leagues have been demanding such legislation for years. It is a model for other countries and has already come under study by a commission concerned with hazardous products in the United States."

With royal assent, the new law immediately makes it illegal to import, advertise or sell:

Furniture, toys and other articles intended for children which are coated with paints containing harmful amounts of lead. This is intended to reduce the incidence of infant poisoning caused by sucking painted surfaces.

Varnishes and paints which are highly inflammable. (This will remove from the market paints with dangerously low flashpoints.)

Jequity beans, and any toys or jewellery made with the highly poisonous beans. (Used occasionally as dolls' eyes or for necklaces, these small beans are characterized by a shiny red surface marked by a black dot. It has not been possible to outlaw their importation or sale until now.)

Other highly hazardous products can be outlawed as soon as they are identified.

## LABELLING AND PACKAGING

In addition, the manner of selling, advertising, labelling and packaging certain hazardous products can be regulated.

The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs already contemplates regulation of various household bleaches, cleansers and polishes that are responsible for a large number of child poisonings a year. Regulations can include such things as the safe packaging of products, clear labelling as to proper use, printing of antidote information and, when they are developed, child-proof closures.

Also planned is regulation of hobbycraft glue so that certain harmful solvents will not find their way easily into the hands of those likely to abuse their use.

The scope of the Act extends to a very wide range of products likely to be of danger to the health

or safety of the public. This includes any product or substance that is poisonous, toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive.

The legislation specifically mentions dangerous design, construction or contents of any product intended for household, garden or personal use, for use in sports or recreational activities, as life-saving equipment, or as a toy, plaything or equipment used by children.

Mr. Basford said that early attention would be given to dangerously flammable fabrics, sub-standard life preservers, defective matches, dangerous children's toys and other household products which are hazardous to consumers.

## UIC PAYMENTS TO BANKS

Nearly 200,000 of the 450,000 employers registered with the Unemployment Insurance Commission of Canada will soon pay their monthly contributions directly to chartered banks and certain other financial institutions.

The purpose of this new procedure, effective October 1, is to make it easier for employers using the bulk-payment method to make their payments. Negotiations with the various institutions that began in January, are continuing.

New remittance forms will be sent in September to all employers using the bulk-payment method.

There is no charge to the employer for this new service and no pay exchange if he is obliged to send the remittance to another city.

Under the new arrangement, the employer sends the money to his own financial institution, either by cheque or cash, or he arranges to have his account automatically debited when he sends in the remittance form. The money then goes to the agency of the Bank of Canada where it is deposited to the credit of the UIC.

If the employer's present banking facilities do not come under the new agreement, he can deal with any chartered bank, which will probably want a certified cheque, cash or a money order.

Some institutions such as those with no commercial accounts, and some of the larger trust companies have decided not to take part in this scheme — usually because they have little or no floating funds to cover the period when the money is in transition from their funds to the Bank of Canada.

## THE NEED FOR MORE EXPORTS

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin has called for intensified efforts by exporters to maintain the export-growth momentum necessary for a strong external financial position and a healthy economy.

The Minister was commenting on export figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which show that Canada's exports reached \$7,281 million in the first half of 1969, nearly 12 percent above