

NATIONAL HEALTH IN 1961

Strong support for a fitness and amateur sport programme; new legislation to combat the menace of "goofballs" and a stepped-up programme of measurement of atmospheric radioactivity were among the highlights of the 1961 activities of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Significant as were these measures, it has been stated by Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, "the outstanding event of the past 12 months was the appointment of a Royal Commission on Health Services." This body was set up to make "a comprehensive study of Canada's national health requirement and the existing deficiencies in health care with a view to consideration of the establishment of a National Health Plan." Its chairman is Chief Justice Emmett Hall of Saskatchewan.

Continued progress was made in the medical stockpiling of the Emergency Health Services Division. It is expected that, by March 1963, the \$18-million project will be complete.

Awareness of the need for preparedness was a factor in the accelerated activity at the Canadian Civil Defence College at Amprior, Ontario, where 4,000 persons attended a variety of courses and conferences.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dr. Joseph W. Willard, Deputy Minister of Welfare, represented Canada on the Social Commission of the United Nations. Mr. John Macdonald, Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Welfare, served as an ad-

viser to the Canadian delegation to the forty-fifth session of the I.L.O. Canada was elected to the Executive Board of UNICEF.

Dr. Kingsley Kay, a senior scientific consultant of the Occupational Health Division, visited Malaya as adviser to the Malayan Government in setting up an industrial health service.

Dr. Morgan Martin, chief of the Mental Health Division, accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Mental Health. He is the third Canadian ever to sit on this Committee.

Dr. Peter M. Bird became the first chief of the Radiation Protection Division. This division, as a result of the resumption of nuclear-weapon testing and the consequent increase in the levels of radioactive fallout, took steps to speed up reporting of atmospheric radiation levels.

The International Health Section completed a comprehensive questionnaire on health activities in Canada from 1957 to 1960, which was prepared for the World Health Organization. In 1961, a new record (166) was achieved in the number of health trainees who studied in Canada under various Canadian aid programmes.

On September 25, Parliament passed Bill C/131, entitled "The Fitness and Amateur Sport Act", an act designed to encourage, promote and develop fitness and amateur sport in Canada through a co-operative partnership among local, provincial and federal governments and fitness and amateur sport organizations.

B.C. AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL

More than 100 amateur films are flooding into Vancouver from all parts of the world for one of the principal film events of 1962, the Vancouver International Amateur Film Festival. Entries have been assured from Japan, Greece, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, South Africa, New Zealand, Great Britain, the United States and Canada. A Russian entry will be the first such entry in any international amateur film festival.

The best films of this competition will be presented at public showings on three evenings in early March, at the new Vancouver civic theatre now under construction. The competition is being held under the patronage of the Union Internationale du Cinéma d'Amateurs, a member of the International Council for Films and Television (UNESCO). The Festival will be a showcase for the best amateur films and is designed to stimulate amateur film making in Canada.

PRIZES

Open to 16mm films of every kind, the contest features nine awards, in addition to certificates of merit, certificates of presentation and audience awards. The major award is an Eskimo carved-stone statuette and \$250.00. The form of the award was

determined after the Festival organizers had received a suggestion from Spain that it should represent an aspect of Canadian art. Gold, silver and bronze plaques will be awarded to second, third and fourth place films for overall excellence.

Guy Glover, executive producer of the National Film Board, has accepted an invitation to serve as a judge. At least two additional judges will be appointed.

The driving force behind the Festival is an amateur film maker who has made his own mark in other international festivals. Anthony Collins, formerly associated with the Grasshopper Group in England, combined his enthusiasm for film making with his interest in campanology to make "Ringers Required." This film won the trophy of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada for the best amateur film in the Canadian Film Award competition of 1960. Among other honours, it also received an award at an international festival in Johannesburg. The Board of Management of the VIAFF has been drawn from the group which produced "Ringers Required". They are Anthony Collins, Director of the Festival; Mrs. Frances Bodie, Secretary for International Relations; Ronald Hyatt, Secretary of Film Entries; and Stanley Andrews, Director of Publicity.