

direction of Dr. Armand Frappier -- for the establishment there of large-scale production facilities. At Montreal, the same high standard of quality and the same rigid safety controls and testing procedures will be maintained as at Toronto's Connaught Laboratories -- an institution which played a prominent part in the original development of the vaccine.

Last month I announced that, after consultation with the provincial health authorities, it was decided that inoculations would not be given during the summer months since the schools, where most inoculations are administered, would be closed with children on vacation. Additionally, this procedure avoids any possible risk associated with injections given during the polio epidemic season.

It is our objective in the months ahead to provide third doses for those children who have now received the first two and to immunize at least an additional 2,000,000 children before the onset of next year's polio season. This means that by the Spring of 1956, close to 1,000,000 children will have received their third and final inoculations while another 2,000,000 will have been given the first two injections. This total represents well over one half of the nation's 5,200,000 children under the age of 16.

The accomplishment of this ambitious objective will severely tax the resources of the two Canadian laboratories concerned and will require a sustained effort on the part of each to achieve the greatly expanded production that will be necessary.

Since the production and testing of Salk vaccine is a long and complicated process extending over several months, the widespread immunization programme carried out this Spring was only possible because production, testing and distribution plans were worked out well in advance. Continued success will require similar preparations for the next stage in our programme.

With this in mind, I have held extensive discussions over the past several weeks with my Deputy Minister, Dr. G.D.W. Cameron, and other senior officers of the Department, provincial health authorities, and Dr. R.D. Defries and members of his technical staff from the Connaught Laboratories in order to determine the most effective method of achieving a two-fold objective:

- to provide immunization to the largest possible number of Canadian children before next year's polio season; and
- to maintain the same high degree of safety and administrative efficiency that have characterized this year's programme.

On the advice of Dr. Defries, Dr. Frappier and other outstanding experts in this field, and after consultation with the ten provincial health departments, it has been decided that the safest and most effective means of reaching these objectives is to commence our second series of inoculations at the beginning of the new year. There are, we feel, a number of important advantages to be gained by following this course of action.