

## TOY-SAFETY REGULATIONS

Mr. Ron Basford, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, recently announced sweeping new regulations, issued under the Hazardous Products Act, governing the safety of toys sold in Canada.

Effective immediately, regulations ban a wide variety of dangerous features in toys. Other regulations requiring the use of new test methods, warning labels and changes in manufacturing methods will go into effect in November 1971.

The main object of the regulations was to eliminate "booby traps", the Minister said. "We can prohibit things which are known dangers but we can't eliminate all accidents unless parents use commonsense both in buying toys and providing supervision."

### BABY TOYS

The rules single out baby toys for special attention. Toys that expose metal spikes or sharp wires when they are broken are banned, as are toys with loose eyes, or rattles with small parts which could choke a child. Straight pins used for attaching bows and decorations to dolls are prohibited. Toy arrows and other projectile toys will be required to have protective tips. Similarly, the shafts of "push-pull" toys will have to have protective fittings.

Detailed regulations control the use of any substance in a toy which might be poisonous. Paints must meet stringent standards limiting lead content or other hazardous ingredients. Effective immediately, dangerous substances, such as carbon tetrachloride, methyl alcohol, petroleum distillates, benzene, turpentine, boric acid or ethyl ether may not be used in toys. Also banned are other corrosive or irritating substances. Any material used in stuffing toys must be clean and free of dirty or noxious material. Drawing materials such as crayons and modelling clays must be non-toxic. (Chemistry sets are being dealt with under a separate regulation.)

Electrically-operated toys must meet safety standards set by the Canadian Standards Association. Provincial regulations now make such safety requirements mandatory but their inclusion in federal regulations permits strict enforcement on a national scale by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Wet cell batteries used in electrical toys must be leak-proof when subject to rigorous shaking and dropping tests. Also, any toys with hot surfaces, such as stoves or irons, which could burn a child, are subject to regulations based on CSA standards of safety.

### FIRE SAFETY

Toys made of celluloid, except table-tennis balls, are subject to immediate ban. The hair of dolls or the fur or manes of toy animals must not consist of dangerously flammable materials. Dolls' dresses and other fabrics must also meet the flammability standards, which will soon be set out in regulations

governing flammable fabrics in general.

Rigorous standards governing mechanical hazards associated with toys will go into effect in November 1971. Fasteners, glass panels, plastic, exposed nails, screws and bolts and spring-wound driving mechanisms will have to meet specified safety standards.

Other rules prohibit dangerous features in such things as noise-making toys, play trunks, finger paints, toy steam engines, kite strings and elastic used in prams and playpens.

## A GRAIN OF SALT

Mr. Otto E. Lang, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, told the annual meeting of the Alberta Wheat Pool recently that this year's improved markets should be seen as a part of the cyclical swings in world grain trade. "The current sales upswing does not suggest that market troubles are over," he said. "Rather, it again demonstrates the extreme delicacy of grain exports in future as we push further into new markets."

Mr. Lang cautioned producers against relaxing their efforts to plan their production. "You must not think that recent good wheat sales indicate a return to huge wheat acreages. I believe that by the end of this crop year, grain carry-over will include about 650 million bushels of wheat. To make most effective use of the elevator system, almost 400 million bushels of wheat may still be on farms. The best estimates we can make indicate that any more than 20 million acres in wheat next year will add to carry-over. If we are fortunate in having larger sales next year, the 650-million bushel stocks at the beginning of the crop year will be more than enough to fill them," he said.

Mr. Lang discussed the grain-policy proposals at present under review by farm organizations. He told the meeting that program details should be completed by the end of the year in order that necessary legislation can be introduced in the spring session of Parliament. "It is important that the stabilization plan be in effect for this crop year to assist producers through what is still a very difficult time," he said. "The backlog of wheat in commercial storage has absorbed much of the sales increase for wheat. Farmers will market about 360 million bushels of wheat this year on the eight-bushel quota announced last spring. Increased cash receipts for the year will come mainly from barley and rapeseed. Even with the good markets for these crops, farmers this year will be short of cash. If the Stabilization Plan is implemented it will ensure that total cash receipts come up to the five-year average. "I expect this will require about \$100 million from the plan. Farmers need this cash soon, and I hope we will be able to have an acceptable plan in operation before the end of this crop year," Mr. Lang stated.