

GAINS IN TB BATTLE

The incidence of tuberculosis continued to decline in 1956 during which, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, there was a 10 per cent reduction from the preceding year in the number of cases reported as distinct from admissions to sanatoria.

Tuberculosis death rates have fallen dramatically in the last 10 years, with new record lows being a commonplace annual occurrence. In contrast, figures of new cases and of first admissions to sanatoria have clung more closely to prewar levels. Between 1931 and 1955 the chances of dying from tuberculosis declined by nearly 88 per cent but the chances of contracting tuberculosis in the first place dropped only 6 per cent. Expectation that the rapidly falling death rates of recent years foreshadowed a gradual drying-up of the reservoir of tuberculosis in this country appear nearer realization with the 1956 decline of 962 cases.

The tuberculosis case rate for the year, the lowest since 1929, stood at 57.8 per 100,000 population, with the reduction being shared by all provinces except Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta. The nation-wide improvement, states the Bureau's 4-page special report released recently, reflects the effects of higher Canadian living standards, new treatment methods and expanded anti-tuberculosis services.

Revenue of 56 of Canada's tuberculosis sanatoria reached a record \$31,241,532 in

1955, up slightly (0.2 per cent) from the preceding year's \$31,174,016, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This was the smallest percentage gain in more than a decade and followed annual increases of 8 per cent or more from 1945 to 1953 and a modest rise (0.9 per cent) in 1954.

Expenditure decreased for the second successive year in 1955 to \$31,132,850 from \$31,520,269 in 1954 and \$32,439,000 in 1953. The 1955 decline amounted to 1.2 per cent; the 1954 drop was 2.8 per cent, while 1953's expenditure figure, the last to show an increase, was 11.2 per cent above that for 1952.

Most of the revenue was in the form of provincial grants, accounting for 70.6 cents of the revenue dollar as compared with 74.7 cents in the preceding year. A small sum was reported as received from paying patients--1.1 cent per dollar in 1955 versus 1.4 cents in 1954. Federal grants represented 6.3 cents of the revenue dollar versus 5.5 cents and contracts (Workmen's Compensation Board and other contracts) 11.6 cents versus 5.8 cents.

Cost per patient day has increased steadily. From \$2.60 in 1942 it rose above \$3.00 in 1945, above \$4.00 in 1947, above \$5.00 in 1949, above \$6.00 in 1952, and to \$7.08 in 1955. The highest cost per patient day was British Columbia's at \$14.07, averages for the other provinces ranging from \$9.14 in Alberta to \$5.67 in Quebec.

TRADE OFFICE IN CEYLON: The Department of Trade and Commerce has decided to reappoint a representative in Ceylon. Mr. W.R. Van, recently Commercial Secretary in the Canadian Embassy in Rome, has been appointed Commercial Secretary in the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, Colombo, and will take up his duties in this new post about April 5.

Canadian firms interested in trade with Asian markets will recollect that Ceylon has for many years been a substantial and consistent supplier of Canadian requirements of tea, rubber in various forms, desiccated coconut, and a number of coconut by-products. That country has at the same time purchased considerable quantities of Canadian motor vehicles, railway ties, household and office equipment, and a variety of foodstuffs. However, postwar controls have affected the extent and composition of the trade to a point where it is now made up to a substantial degree by flour, newsprint paper, powdered milk, machinery, electrical apparatus, automobile parts and hardware.

The trade has traditionally shown a large balance in Ceylon's favour. For the calendar year 1955, Canadian statistics show that imports from Ceylon totalled \$15,580,693 and exports to that country totalled \$2,671,252.

TROPHY WINNERS: Royal Canadian Army Cadets and Royal Canadian Air Cadets have won the King George V Trophy for 1955 and have received the congratulations of Her Majesty The Queen. The King George V Trophy recognizes the highest standard of small-bore shooting among cadets of Commonwealth countries.

Canada had 9,077 Army cadets and 11 Air cadets competing, the largest representation in the Commonwealth, and the average scores of 2,000 boys were computed to arrive at the result. Canada won the trophy with an average of 88,079 points of a possible 100. Runner-up was South Africa with 88,022 points.

The competition has been staged annually since 1910 and results take approximately a year to compute.

The Queen's congratulations are contained in a letter from the Privy Purse Office, Buckingham Palace.

In the Imperial Trophies competition, the Senior Shield was won by No. 2307 St. Coeur de Marie Cadet Corps of Shediac, N.B. No. 30 Mont St. Louis Cadet Corps, Montreal, was runner-up.

In the number of medals won by various Commonwealth countries, Canada also led the field with 77 silver and 104 bronze medals.