

## Questions

Saskatchewan, \$27,024; Alberta, \$30,773; British Columbia, \$27,696; Yukon and Northwest Territories, \$13,354.

2. The percentage distribution of physicians' and surgeons' gross professional earnings from fees and from wages and salaries earned incidental to fee practice for the whole of Canada in 1962 was as follows: Self paying patients, 41.4 per cent; voluntary prepayment plans, 44.7 per cent; federal and provincial governments, 7.4 per cent; workmen's compensation boards, 6.5 per cent.

Reliable information on the distribution of earnings in each province is not available.

## REDUCTION IN MAIL SERVICE, MONTREAL-VANCOUVER

Question No. 2,831—**Mr. Mather:**

Has the Post Office Department received notification from the C.P.R. that all mail and express will be moved from trains 3/7 and 3/4 between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver by June 24, 1965, thus affecting mail service between Montreal and Vancouver and, if so, does the government concur with this removal, and with the reported pending withdrawal of these trains?

**Hon. René Tremblay (Postmaster General):** Yes, the Post Office Department has received notification about the changes affecting mail service between Montreal and Vancouver.

The Post Office Department has no jurisdiction over the operation of the C.P.R. and, as such, can offer no objection to the railway's decision to withdraw head end traffic on trains 3-4, 7-8, particularly since alternate means of providing satisfactory postal service are available.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE FUND

Question No. 2,838—**Mr. Côté (Chicoutimi):**

1. What amount was there in the foreign exchange fund at February 28, 1965 (a) in gold (equivalent in Canadian dollars) (b) in pounds sterling (c) in U.S. dollars (d) in French francs (e) in other currency?

2. Where are details of this account to be found?

**Mr. L. T. Pennell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** 1. As at February 28, 1965, the exchange fund account held gold valued in Canadian dollars at \$1,125 million and U.S. dollars valued in Canadian dollars at \$1,634.9 million. Outside the exchange fund account but included in the official holdings of gold and U.S. dollars released in the first week of each month for the previous month end by the Minister of Finance are working balances in U.S. dollars held by the Bank of Canada and the Minister of Finance. As at February 28 these totalled in

Canadian dollars \$87.8 million and \$15.8 million respectively.

2. On the third business day of each month the Minister of Finance issues a press release stating the total of official holdings of gold and U.S. dollars as at the end of the preceding month. In the third week of each month the Bank of Canada releases its statistical summary which gives the breakdown of the official holdings between gold and U.S. dollars. The Currency Mint and Exchange Fund Act requires the Minister of Finance to report annually to parliament on the operations of the exchange fund account. This report, which must be made within five months from the year end, provides detailed information about the operation of the account in the past calendar year.

## REPORT ON FLUORIDATION

Question No. 2,844—**Mr. Marcoux:**

1. Have studies designed to confirm or refute Dr. Rapaport's unconvincing observations been undertaken in Canada and, if so, were they supported by the Department of National Health and Welfare?

2. In the past, when unconvincing preliminary results have raised doubts as to the safety of a food additive, what procedures has the department followed for the protection of Canadian consumers?

3. Are the same procedures being applied with regard to fluoride, which is undoubtedly being added to canned and other processed foods packed by plants using fluoridated city waters?

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. The department is not aware of authentic evidence indicating that any ill effects have ever been encountered in North America by consumption of water fluoridated at one part per million. On the contrary, there are many reports in the scientific literature attesting to the safety and value of fluoridation as a public health measure. Studies designed to confirm or refute Dr. Rapaport's data relating to fluoridation in Wisconsin have not therefore been undertaken by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

2 and 3. Officers of the Department of National Health and Welfare are continually searching the literature for reports of adverse effects from the ingestion of any component of a food. Such reports are carefully scrutinized and weighed against the body of available scientific information. If there is sufficient evidence action is initiated to reduce or eliminate the hazards. These procedures are being applied to fluoride.

[Miss LaMarsh.]