

aiming to establish a republic in Canada, had created a great deal of resentment.

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal erected the memorial at the time of D'Arcy McGee's death and has maintained it since that time.

### TB TEST-STANDARD SERVICE

Mr. Rosaire Gendron, Parliamentary Secretary to National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro, opened the National Tuberculosis Reference Centre in Ottawa on October 8.

The Centre, which was established on the recommendation of the third National Tuberculosis Conference in 1966, is staffed by scientists from the Department of National Health and Welfare's Laboratory of Hygiene and is responsible for establishing and maintaining uniform standards in testing for resistance to the primary drugs. The tests are currently conducted in provincial laboratories, but centralization of services assures a uniform standard of investigation.

Another important object of the new service is to investigate resistance to the "second-line" anti-tuberculosis drugs for the whole of Canada. This type of research is essential for the treatment of patients infected with bacilli resistant to the main anti-tuberculosis drugs.

Though the tuberculosis-rate has declined in Canada in recent years, some 5,000 new active cases are diagnosed annually and about 200,000 individuals require follow-up care and attention.

### CHANGES IN GRAIN PAYMENTS ACT

Mr. Otto Lang, Minister without Portfolio associated with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, has submitted to Parliament amendments to the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, which, if approved, will provide grain-producers with increased cash during periods of elevator congestion when delays occur in delivering crops to country elevators.

The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, which was proclaimed on November 25, 1957, makes available to grain-producers in Western Canada ready cash advanced against the security of grain stored on farms.

Mr. Lang stated that since the inception of the Act, some 21 per cent (or about 47,000) of those who hold permits have availed themselves annually of its provisions. Total advances now approach \$450 million, averaging some \$40 million annually. A peak was reached in the 1960-61 crop-year, when \$64 million was advanced to some 76,000 producers. During the 11 years of the Act's existence, the recovery-rate of these advances is more than 99.5 per cent.

Mr. Lang said that interest charges, which have been borne by the Government, have amounted to \$7.5 million; the Government's share of defaults has come to \$43,101.

In one year only (1967-68) has the average advance for all producers exceeded \$1,000, a clear in-

dication that, in general, it is the smaller producers who avail themselves of and benefit from the Act.

### NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The main features of the new Act are:

(1) The maximum advance available to producers is doubled from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

(2) The rate of advance for each bushel is increased from 50 cents to \$1.00 for wheat; 20 cents to 40 cents for oats; and 35 cents to 70 cents for barley.

(3) Exceptions relating to the "unit" quota have been removed from the Act. (The unit quota allows each producer to deliver the same volume of grain — e.g. 400 bushels of wheat, irrespective of acreage.) The unit quota may now be used in applying for an advance payment or for the repayment of outstanding advances.

(4) Allowance is made for producers who may already have applied for an advance payment before the new Act comes into force. Such producers will be eligible to apply for further advances, which will make their total advance equal to the amount to which they would be entitled had they applied under the new Act.

### FIRST FLOUR-MILL COMMEMORATED

Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, unveiled a plaque recently to commemorate the Poutrincoourt Mill, a national historic site at Lequille, about two miles from Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. The unveiling was part of a pageant sponsored by the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company for the opening of a hydroelectric plant housed in a reproduction of a typical seventeenth century French mill.

In the spring of 1607, Poutrincoourt and his French settlers invited Chief Membertou and his Micmac Indians to inspect a 100-horsepower flour-mill that he had built on the Lequille River, near Port Royal, the habitation he founded in 1605. After the natives examined the mill, they exchanged gifts with the settlers.

The Poutrincoourt Mill was declared a national historic site in 1947.

### LOGGING INDUSTRY CHANGES

Many changes have taken place in Ontario's logging operations since 1900. Power saws, for example, have replaced the axe and various hand-saws for felling and limbing. With the advent of more sophisticated equipment, today's logger must have some formal education and mechanical aptitude besides the physical strength that was a primary requisite for employment 50, or even 30, years ago.

At that time, the lumberjack retired at night to a log hut in which a number of beds with straw mattresses were placed together and wet clothes were hung to dry by a wood-stove, the shelter's only source of heat. Today he lives in a large dormitory-style bunkhouse that has separate rooms for laundry, central heating from oil-fired furnaces, hot and cold