

officers be assigned in Ontario to carry out this plan on an experimental basis.

In effect, the plan suggested was designed purely for the purpose of better assisting persons discharged from penal institutions in obtaining and holding suitable employment. The Committee considered that suitable employment was essential to the rehabilitation of men and women who had a prison record.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FLOODS: Disaster recently struck B.C. when thousands were suddenly rendered homeless in the rich Fraser Valley by rampaging rivers that turned the area overnight into thousands of islands. The deadly twin of natural disaster of this kind is pestilence and epidemic - spread by polluted water and crowded emergency living conditions. This twin never reared its ugly head, reads a National Defence Department press release.

No disease has developed. Of the thousands of people involved, only one small group suffered enteric trouble which was cleared up within 24 hours. How was this record accomplished? What steps are taken to protect a population in dangerous circumstances? B.C. has been a test case. The methods used here will be studied and followed in other parts of Canada if a major disaster strikes.

The first and most important lesson learned was coordination and single direction of all health services - provincial, municipal, armed forces and others. Dr. George Elliot, Provincial Health Department; Dr. Stewart Murray, Vancouver health officer, and Lt.-Col. J.S. McCannel, Canadian Army medical officer, sat on the flood control committee. On their sub-committee were included the Army's Western Command hygiene officer, the Provincial public health engineer and the Provincial director of public health nursing.

WORKED IN TEAMS

Troops and civilians were treated alike. There was no overlapping or duplication. The health officers of the valley towns and the Army medical men worked in teams. Their work was not dramatic because they kept on top of the situation at all times so that no dramatic epidemics could develop.

Preventive medicine at its best was practised. Safe water, safe food and safe disposal of sewage were the first objectives. The Army's water testing kits were used everywhere. All Vancouver's water sterilizing powder and insecticide was put to use. Two Reserve Force field ambulances, the 12th from Vancouver and the 13th from Victoria, were called out. Over 60 Army medical men including 15 medical officers have been working with civilian medical personnel. St. John's Ambulance men and women served unselfishly and untiringly wherever the medical committee could use them best.

After hygiene and sanitation came immunization. For fear of sore arms, needed to carry sandbags, the troops were inoculated only

after they came out of action. They will take no disease home with them. By June 12, over 15,000 civilians had already been inoculated against typhoid and paratyphoid. Here, Army medical stores in Vancouver were called on for supplies that did not exist in sufficient quantity elsewhere in B.C.

The next step was insect control to make life bearable for flood fighters and livestock alike, who were attacked by vast hordes of flood-bred mosquitoes. The anti-aircraft gunners working on the dykes claimed the size of the mosquitoes would make excellent targets had they brought their bofors guns with them.

The R.C.A.F. surveyed the area carefully so that the crops would not be harmed by DDT. Then a civilian plane and a helicopter went to work with spray equipment. Army mechanics adapted a paint sprayer on a towed trailer so that it could be used to powerspray insecticide all through the valley.

The last step is now going into effect. This is medical control of families returning to their homes - homes sometimes shifted hundreds of yards by the swirling water. Every home is inspected to ensure that safe water is available and conditions are liveable.

Then the brave task of bringing back to life the drowned farms commences.

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS: Commissions in the Royal Canadian Navy will be granted to selected university graduates with degrees in electrical engineering, engineering physics, radio engineering or radio physics, it was announced by Naval Service Headquarters on June 22.

Successful applicants will be entered as Acting Sub-Lieutenants either in the Electrical Branch or the Executive Branch as Communication officers.

The Electrical Branch of the R.C.N. is the recognized technical authority on all electrical and electronic equipment fitted on H.M.C. ships and establishments.

EDUCATION IN FAR NORTH: In a recent report to the Sub-committee on Education of the Northwest Territories Council, Inspector of Schools J.W. McKinnon, revealed that notable progress had been made in the development of interest in child and adult education among both native and white residents of the far north.

The report was transmitted to the Northwest Territories Council at its regular meeting June 17 by the Commissioner, H.L. Keenleyside.

Mr. McKinnon, who recently returned from an inspection tour of Mackenzie District, reported that at every settlement visited from Fort Smith to Aklavik there is tangible evidence of the keen interest being taken in all measures directed towards improvement in both the range and effectiveness of the educational programme in the Territories.