

HYGIENE LABORATORY RENAMED

Mr. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare, has announced that his Department's Laboratory of Hygiene will be known from now on as the Canadian Communicable Disease Center.

Mr. Munro said that the new title would be more suited to the role provided by the Center on behalf of public health in Canada.

LABORATORY WORK

The laboratory, which was established in 1921, has been promoting better health services throughout Canada and has tested the quality of biological drugs (vaccines, etc.) under the Food and Drugs Act. In co-operation with provincial health departments, hospitals and research institutions, improved laboratory work requires the specialized operation of reference laboratories for both chemical and bacteriological services. Tuberculosis, venereal diseases, tick-borne fevers and viral diseases come under this immediate category.

Because of the biologics-control work undertaken by this service, safe and effective vaccines against such communicable diseases as poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough and mumps have been available in Canada and the release of faulty vaccines has been avoided.

FISHING VESSEL INSURANCE

Changes in the Federal Government's fishing vessel insurance plan will make low-cost insurance a reality for most Canadian fishing vessels next April, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Jack Davis announced recently.

Large vessels of up to 100 feet registered length will be eligible for insurance coverage for the first time.

Mr. Davis also indicated that rate schedules were being changed in order to make the FVIP financially self-supporting and provide revenues sufficient not only to cover insurance claims but also to pay for administrative costs.

The new rate schedules for the categories of vessel are as follows: 1 per cent of appraised value up to \$5,000; 2 per cent of appraised value from \$5,000 to \$25,000; and 4 per cent of appraised value over \$25,000.

NEW IDEA FOR ANIMAL CLINIC

Livestock producers throughout Canada, the United States and Britain are watching with interest a new idea in assistance to veterinary medicine

being established as a pilot project in the Peace River area by the Veterinary Services Division, Alberta Department of Agriculture.

The project is designed to test a new method of attracting and maintaining private veterinary practices in livestock production areas and is being conducted by the Division in co-operation with the Peace River Livestock Association Ltd. and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. The plan, which was established in response to requests from livestock groups, service boards, local government and area planning groups, is expected to reduce the overhead of the animal practitioner, thereby reducing costs to the livestock producer.

The Association has agreed to build a \$50,000-veterinary clinic at Fairview, which will include livestock pens and chutes, sterilizers, obstetrical and surgical instruments and clinical laboratory equipment. This facility will be leased by the provincial government for a specified time, ensuring the Association full return of capital investment. The clinic will be made available to a practitioner provided through the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

In most provinces, assistance to veterinarians is in the form of annual subsidies, a method which has not proved completely successful. The new method should ease the financial burden on both the livestock producer and the practitioner while, at the same time, increasing the service. It will provide the environment and facilities to attract young graduates who will practise under the supervision of the AVMA.

The project, if successful, will help in attracting and retaining a veterinarian at a time when he is most needed — while the livestock industry is being developed.

FAMILY FIGURES

The estimated number of families in Canada (excluding Yukon and Northwest Territories) on June 1, 1968, was 4,696,000, an increase of 178,000 or 3.9 per cent since the 1966 census, and of 556,000 or 13.4 per cent since the 1961 census. The average number of persons in a family in Canada on June 1, 1968, was 3.9, the same as that shown in the 1961 and 1966 censuses. The population living in families on June 1, 1968, constituted 88.7 of the total population of Canada on that date. Average family size was largest in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces at 4.2 persons a family, followed by the Prairie Provinces at 3.9 persons and Ontario at 3.7, while British Columbia had the smallest average size at 3.6 persons a family.