

these fields. From our long experience with such legislation we are also glad to assist in developing suitable systems elsewhere.

There is less trade difficulty with food than with drugs and less need for exact international standards. However, differences do exist. For example, there seems little reason why agreement could not be reached on a universal list of acceptable food colouring agents. Agreement might also be sought in choice of food names and labels.

Canada has collaborated closely with the United States and Great Britain in setting up standards for drugs and also in devising methods of testing them. We take a real interest in international committees, both of the World Health Organization and of other organizations, whose work it is to devise and study methods of test and biological assay. Canada has contributed significantly to the advancement of this science.

PROTECTION OF THE CONSUMER IS PARAMOUNT TO PROFIT

The work of our Food and Drugs Division never ends; laws and regulations must constantly be changed to meet changing conditions of business and trade; standards must alter and new methods be devised to keep pace with advances in science and in industrial techniques. At all times, the primary purpose of the Act must be uppermost in the minds of its administrators: to protect the health -- and the purse -- of the Canadian consumer.

Food and Drug control has come a long way in the last 75 years. Most of our important drugs have been discovered and developed since 1875, as have many new food handling procedures such as commercial canning, refrigeration and transportation. A Food and Drugs enforcement officer today must be well qualified in science, familiar with processing, advertising and marketing methods, and alert to changes in any of these.

The modern Food and Drugs Act of Canada is extremely broad in its scope. It is concerned with nearly everything taken into the mouth, injected into the body or put on the skin. Its authority also extends to medical appliances as well as to poisons for destroying insects and rodents.

In its enforcement, nearly every branch of science plays some part. It is an extremely interesting and even exciting field for the scientist and the administrator. Its purpose is, above all, to protect the consumer, but it also sets standards by which to create a code of honesty and fair dealing to protect the reputable manufacturer or merchant from dishonest and unscrupulous competition.....

Our Food and Drugs Act has been successful because the Canadian producer has come to recognize the rights of the consumer, and to show a real interest in helping to protect these rights. The growth of this realization -- that protection of the consumer is paramount to profit -- is an important aspect of our social progress in the three-quarters of a century since the Food and Drugs Act came into force. It is encouraging to note this development because there is probably no act on our statute books that affects more intimately the everyday life of the Canadian people.

S/A
