

POLIOMYELITIS: Pointing out that salk poliomyelitis vaccine was used extensively in Canada for the first time, the Annual Report of the Department of National Health and Welfare states that the manner in which it was introduced was unique in the history of immunization programmes and presented problems which compounded the difficulties ordinarily expected in such a procedure. Sound scientific practice requires careful and prolonged preliminary studies to identify immunologic and production problems and permit their resolution before a new preparation may be offered to the public. Additionally a sufficient store of knowledge is accumulated to enable broad immunization programmes to go forward in orderly fashion. In the case of the Salk vaccine, however, the intense public interest which had been stimulated forced emphasis upon producing as much of the vaccine as possible for practical use. Problems which arose in relation to its immunologic properties, production and testing had to be dealt with on a day-to-day basis.

Throughout the spring and early summer of 1955 just over 1,850,000 doses of the vaccine were produced at the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories and by the end of June provincial immunization programmes had generally been concluded. This early completion of the programmes permitted an excellent opportunity for a broad study of the effectiveness of the vaccine, but the low incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis, the lowest in ten years, materially influenced the findings in a number of the provinces. While the results in such areas lacked the degree of significance that would have been desirable, in other Provinces in which the incidence of poliomyelitis approached the average for previous years, the findings were significant. With this favourable indication of the protective value of the vaccine, plans were made for the resumption of the polio immunization programmes during the following year.

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26 PER CENT: Approximately 26 per cent of Canada's pulp and paper industry is located in Ontario, where there are nine pulp mills, 19 pulp and paper mills and 15 paper mills, Lands and Forests Minister Clare E. Mapledoram reports.

Mr. Mapledoram has also announced the establishment in the near future of another pulp and paper mill in the far northwestern part of the Province. "The installation of this multi-million dollar industry," he said, "is reasonably well assured just as soon as the present tight money situation resolves itself."

Mr. Mapledoram feels that sustained yield is the most important single responsibility of the Department of Lands and Forests and the wood-working industries. "Perpetuation of our forest industries is based on continued productivity of our forest lands," he said. "With funds provided by the Legislature and by the use of tested silvicultural methods, we are making broad advances which guarantee the future of our forest industries."

Thirty million trees are now supplied each year from provincial nurseries, and facilities of these are being expanded to increase the annual output to 100 million trees as quickly as possible. Four new nurseries were established last year.

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POPULATION UP: Canada's population on January 1 this year reached an estimated 16,344,000, an increase of 263,000 in the seven months since the national Census was taken on June 1 last when the official count was placed at 16,081,000 according to special estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to meet a widespread demand for figures at the first of the year. The population was estimated at 16,308,000 on December 1, 16,193,000 on September 1, and 16,118,000 on July 1.

From June last to September the increase in population was an estimated 112,000 and from September to December it was 115,000, proportionate increases being identical at 2.8 per cent. December's increase was estimated at 36,000. The estimate for January 1 does not include provincial figures, which are estimated only for the June 1 Census anniversary date.

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HEADS TRAVEL BUREAU: The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Hon. Jean Lesage, has announced the appointment by the Civil Service Commission of Mr. Alan Field, formerly head of the New York office of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau to succeed Mr. D. Leo Dolan as Director of the Bureau. Mr. Dolan was recently appointed Canadian Consul General in Los Angeles.

Mr. Field was engaged in free-lance fiction, newspaper writing and business until he joined the National Film Board in 1942. In 1945 he was made Director of Information Services of the Department of the Secretary of State and was later Executive Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In 1947 he returned to the National Film Board as Secretary of the Board until he joined the Canadian Travel Bureau in 1950.