

Personnel of the Food and Drugs Division

The way in which this important legislation has benefited the Canadian consumer owes much to the men who have administered it. In 1884, Mr. Henry Sugden Evans became the first Chief Analyst for Canada. He has had distinguished successors in Thomas MacFarlane, Anthony McGill, H.M. Lancaster, J.G.A. Valin, and the present effective and efficient Director, Dr. C.A. Morrell.

The Food and Drugs Division under Dr. Morrell has a fully qualified staff and is alert to new developments such as the recently developed wonder drug ACTH, which seems to hold such promise for the treatment of certain diseases. As soon as it became evident that supplies of this drug would be made available for research scientists in Canada and that basic standards would be needed, our officers immediately arranged a small pilot run of ACTH to produce a sufficient quantity to establish a constant standard for comparison with products of other laboratories.

It speaks highly of the technical skill of those in this Division that such a production was possible. And yet with the complexity of the problems coming each day for study to our Food and Drug Laboratories, it is essential that its staff include chemists, pharmacologists, bacteriologists, physiologists and other scientific experts, all forming a team capable of analyzing any new product for human consumption or for the treatment of our health needs.

The work of this Division is exacting, it requires long hours of faithful study and careful application, it requires a judicial approach and patience and skill of high order. In these days, with the important health role being played by products such as insulin, and antibiotics such as penicillin and streptomycin, the work of analysis becomes ever more important to health. The discovery of the significance of vitamins has also made it necessary to widen the scope of food investigation beyond questions of purity and wholesomeness to consider total food value.

Since the Division's first Ottawa laboratory was set up in the West Block of the Parliament Buildings in 1885, it has made several moves. A fine modern building is now in prospect to replace the present well-equipped but badly housed laboratory.

To supplement the work of the Food and Drugs Division, the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act was passed in 1908 to bring patent medicines under control. The Division also works closely with the federal Laboratory of Hygiene, which has the important task of testing biological products for its

FOOD AND DRUG CONTROL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Before a food or drug can be imported into Canada it also must meet Canadian standards of quality and satisfy our regulations as to labelling and advertising. Inspectors from this Division are constantly checking incoming shipments. It is worth noting here the wide variance in food and drug laws in most countries. These differences should not be allowed to interfere with the free flow of food-stuffs and drugs in international trade. I think that we could develop international standards and agreements on the quality to be asked for in these products and also on the technical names under which they could be listed.

Efforts have been made and are being made to reach international agreement on standards for drugs, and to agree on uniform nomenclature. Canada is glad to co-operate in every way with other countries that are anxious to develop legislative standards in