

### Manitoba veterinarian shortage short-circuited

A problem considered critical five years ago — the serious shortage of veterinarians in rural Manitoba — has been almost completely resolved as the result of the province's veterinary services program cost-shared with the Federal Government, Manitoba's Agriculture Minister Sam Uskiw announced last month.

From 1954 to 1969 the number of veterinarians practising in rural Manitoba had dropped from about 55 to 26 and in the three years 1968 to 1970, no veterinarians established facilities in rural Manitoba.

The situation, said Mr. Uskiw, had been completely reversed with 56 veterinarians now serving rural Manitoba and the total expected to rise to 60 before year's end — sufficient for rural Manitoba's livestock requirements. They serve 32 veterinary services districts embracing about 100 rural municipalities.

The program resulted in the provincial government paying 40 per cent of the capital costs of establishing rural veterinary clinics and sharing the annual operating costs with the local municipalities in each veterinary district in the Interlake region, while the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion met 60 per cent of the capital costs.

In the remainder of rural Manitoba, federal-provincial capital financing has been shared equally.

#### Student plan

However, said Mr. Uskiw, there had been an important adjunct to this program — the employment of veterinary students through Manitoba's student

employment program to work with rural veterinarians. First- and second-year veterinary students are provided with 12 weeks' summer employment and up to 14 weeks if requested, receiving salaries from the province. Third-year students are paid by the province for eight weeks' summer work and another eight weeks by the veterinarian with whom they work.

By providing students with employment opportunities, said Mr. Uskiw,

Manitoba had succeeded in attracting many students, upon graduation, to work in rural Manitoba and establish practices there.

He pointed out that since there were no veterinary teaching institutions in Manitoba, persons wishing to practise veterinary medicine must study out of the province. In the past, he said, they usually remained out of the province but this program has been luring them back.

### News briefs

- The national inflation rate during July was the lowest in more than three years, according to Statistics Canada. The consumer price index rose by only 6.8 per cent in the 12 months to July, compared to a 7.8 percent inflation rate a month earlier. The inflation rate in July was the lowest since April 1973, when the consumer price index showed a 6.6 percent gain. Except for December, inflation exceeded 10 per cent in each month last year. Statistics Canada said the moderate increase in July was because of "an unusually small rise for this time of year" in food prices.

- Most motorists in Canada can expect an average increase of 15 to 16 per cent in automobile insurance premiums this year with the implementation by many major auto insurance companies of their 1976 rating programs, July 1.

- Team Canada, the all-professional hockey group participating in the first non-amateur international ice-hockey tournament, is training in Montreal in readiness for the first game September 2. Canada, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Finland and the United States are competing. The Canadian team hopes to have the services of Bobby Orr, Canadian-born Boston "all star" player, now with Chicago, who missed the 1972 series against the Soviet team because of knee injuries.

- Philippe Cousteau and a crew of cameramen and divers are in northwestern Ontario filming in the mercury-contaminated English and Wabigoon rivers area. The 36-year-old son of Jacques Cousteau, well-known under-

water explorer and film-maker, says he hopes to stir international indignation when his television film dealing with the mercury problem is shown a few months from now. He said it was only part of a world-wide pollution problem that must be tackled on a global basis.

- The Export Development Corporation and Redpath Sugars Ltd of Montreal have signed an agreement to finance and build a \$172-million cane sugar complex in the Ivory Coast. The 14,800-acre project in the West African country will provide 60,000 tons of raw sugar for export annually. The ten-year loan includes \$88.3 million from the Crown corporation and \$21.6 million from Canadian banks.

- Air Canada lost a record \$47.5 million in the first half of 1976 — \$17.2 million more than in the same period of 1975. The airline, a Crown company, blames the loss on the nine-day suspension of operations by pilots and air controllers to protest Government efforts to permit French-speaking Quebec pilots to speak French in Quebec air space. Air Canada says the shut-down cost \$22.5 million.

- The jobless rate rose to 775,000 in July, largely because of unemployment among women. The jobless rate, adjusted for seasonal factors, rose to 7.3 per cent from 7 a month earlier and 7.4 per cent in April, the highest in 15 years. The jobless rate for women aged 15 to 24 rose by eight-tenths of a per cent to 12.3 and totalled 6.9 per cent for women 25 and over. Jobless women totalled 357,000, compared to 321,000 in June.

- British Columbia's Minister of Finance, Evan Wolfe, predicts a deficit of \$125 million for his province this year.

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