



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 17 No. 35

August 29, 1962

CONTENTS

Federal Aid to Victims of New Drug	1
Ambassador to Prague	2
U.S.-Canada Lumber Talks	2
Duck Decline Continues	3

Estimated Population	3
Japanese Livestock Mission	3
New Occupational Monograph	4
Hunting Icebergs	4

FEDERAL AID TO VICTIMS OF NEW DRUG

"This is one meeting which I am sure all of us wish was unnecessary", said the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, to a gathering of provincial ministers and others called together in Ottawa on August 17 to discuss the financing of treatment and care for babies deformed by the drug thalidomide. Mr. Monteith declared that "sympathy is not enough" and that there was general determination to see that everything possible was done to relieve the situation of the unfortunate infants "in so far as health, welfare and financial assistance can be effective".

He continued:
 "...It is not our intention to have this conference spend its time going over the history of thalidomide. This would contribute nothing toward helping those afflicted with the problem. At the same time, we realize your interest in this matter and have had prepared for your information a detailed outline of what has occurred, beginning with our receipt of a New Drug Submission pertaining to thalidomide.

"For my part, I would draw your attention to two items covered by the document. As you will see, the first deals with the Government's action on April 18, 1962, in requesting the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to set up a special committee to review objectively and critically our New Drug Procedures and to make such recommendations as it considers appropriate in

the public interest. Unfortunately, the significance of this study does not seem to be generally realized. To my mind, its importance can hardly be exaggerated in the light of its implications for the future.

INTERNATIONAL SPREAD OF INFORMATION

"Besides this initiative with respect to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Canadian Government has acted to further the availability of information regarding new drugs at the international level. Last May, when the World Health General Assembly met in Geneva, Canada initiated and co-sponsored a special resolution, the general purport of which is to improve the lines of communication among nations and to further the standardization of procedures regarding new drugs. This resolution was unanimously approved and has been referred to the Director-General of the World Health Organization for study with the request that he report to the Executive Board of WHO in January 1963. Canada is represented on this Board and proposes to press for action concerning that part of the resolution dealing with an international warning system.

"And now, turning to this conference, no doubt you have all examined the statement I issued on August 1, 1962, indicating that such a meeting was being called. I would draw your attention particularly to the assurance which I gave to the effect

(Over)

that 'the Federal Government is prepared to share with the provincial governments the cost of providing a programme to assist all those affected by thalidomide'.

"The fact that all the provinces are represented here today I think indicates agreement on the necessity of meeting the situation practically as well as compassionately. Some of you may perhaps have to refer our proposals to your governments but, in order that everyone may be in a position to discuss the best possible programme under these circumstances, I should now like to make clear what the Federal Government is prepared to do in common effort.

FEDERAL PROPOSALS

"First, we are prepared to share with each of the provinces the cost of assessment for each individual case, which would include medical, psychosocial, and economic features. In addition, we should consider the cost of essential transportation of an infant and parent as shareable under this arrangement. From the federal point of view, it is believed that this programme could be largely met through National Health Grants.

"Second, we believe that the National Health Grants could also be used, on a matching basis, for surgery, medical care, prosthetic devices and rehabilitation therapy and training, as indicated by individual assessment.

"The Federal Government would be prepared to ensure that the Health Grants programme was capable of providing this type of assistance and would undertake to make any modifications that might be required for an effective programme. Hospitalization could also be provided under the terms of our Hospital Insurance Agreements.

"These two programmes would make it possible for comprehensive health services to be provided for these unfortunate children for congenital malformations associated with thalidomide.

MATCHING FUNDS

"Third, we are prepared to make funds available on a matching basis through welfare grants with respect to maintenance costs and related welfare services for programmes which are considered essential to the welfare of these children.

"The federal and provincial governments have already had a good deal of experience in the setting up of programmes on a matching basis. In each instance, you are aware of the most effective approach to the health and welfare aspects of your individual situations. Our regard and acceptance of this will remain central in the present understanding.

"The provision of federal assistance towards the cost of home, foster home, or institutional care and maintenance may find us in certain situations where we have no direct responsibility. We want to feel free to share with a province half the cost where extra expenses may, in humanity's cause, be called for. I know you will understand the spirit in which it

is given when I say that such action could not in any sense establish a precedent affecting other health and welfare programmes.

"The situation we are dealing with extends beyond expenses which could be incurred in connection with a normal child. This assistance will be limited to babies with congenital malformations where the drug thalidomide has been taken by the mother during pregnancy.

"The issue before us today is a sober one and an important one. It is the earnest and sincere hope of the Dominion Government that, through full discussion, we may develop at least the beginnings of a broad and comprehensive effort to assist those who have been caught in one of those tragic by-ways of that medical and scientific progress which has been of such great benefit to Canadians and to people throughout the world."

AMBASSADOR TO PRAGUE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced on August 21 that, following agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to give their respective legations the status of embassies, Mr. John Alexander McCordick, Canada's Minister to Czechoslovakia, had been named Ambassador.

Mr. McCordick, born in Toronto in 1915, graduated from the University of Toronto in 1938 and subsequently studied in Vienna, Heidelberg, Paris and Tallinn. After joining the Department of External Affairs in 1943, he was posted to the Soviet Union. Following the Second World War, he served in Berlin, Prague, Belgrade and Madrid as well as Ottawa and attended the Imperial Defence College in London. He was named as Minister to Czechoslovakia in June 1960.

U.S.-CANADA LUMBER TALKS

Prime Minister Diefenbaker recently announced that the Canadian Government had agreed to the suggestion of the U.S. Government that representatives of the two Governments should meet in Ottawa commencing August 27 to discuss trade in lumber between the two countries.

The Canadian Government expected, Mr. Diefenbaker said, that full consideration would be given to the long history of the trade in lumber between the United States and Canada and the fact that over the years it had developed into a two-way trade that had brought great benefits to both countries. Canadian lumber was selling in the United States because Canadian producers were competitive, he added.

Canada's adverse balance of current payments with the United States has averaged about \$1,200 million annually during the past decade. If it were not for the lumber exports to the United States, this deficit would be larger, with most serious effects on the Canadian economy.

DUCK DECLINE CONTINUES

The continued decline in the number of ducks on the Prairies has resulted in a further reduction in bag and possession limits in the Prairie Provinces, according to the 1962 Migratory Bird Regulations, just released by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Elsewhere, generally speaking, the limits remain about the same as in 1961.

Although prairie water conditions are now slightly better than during the summer of 1961, the improvement came too late to materially affect brood production on the nesting grounds.

BAG LIMITS

In Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, the daily bag limit for ducks has been reduced from 5 to 4 and the possession limit from 10 to 8. The limits for geese have been reduced in Alberta from 5 and 10 to 4 and 8. The daily bag limit for geese may not contain more than 3 white-fronts and not more than 6 may be possessed. The bag limit for rails, coots, and gallinules has been reduced in the Prairie Provinces from 5 to 4 and the possession limit from 10 to 8.

Populations of canvasback and redhead ducks remain dangerously low. For this reason there will be no open season this year for those species in five of the provinces where they occur - the three Prairie Provinces, Ontario, and Quebec. The Canadian Wildlife Service has indicated that, even with an immediate and continued improvement in nesting conditions, it would require several years for duck populations to reach a level where hunting would not seriously affect the breeding stock.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, with the cooperation of provincial game departments, is supplying hunting-licence vendors with descriptive folders on canvasbacks and redheads, and hunters are being urged through press, television and radio to be particularly careful not to shoot the two species.

DECOY PROHIBITION

Anyone who has a permit to possess migratory birds must not keep or allow the birds to approach within a quarter of a mile of any waterfowl-hunting area during the open season. If migratory birds held under permit are found within that limit, it is assumed under the law that they are being used as live decoys.

Hunters in New Brunswick may now use a powerboat to recover a dead or injured migratory bird within 200 yards of the spot from which it was shot. As in Quebec, it is now legal in New Brunswick for hunters to possess loaded firearms when recovering ducks within this 200-yard limit.

Hunters in Quebec and British Columbia may now possess an additional 12 ducks besides the regular possession limit, provided they are stored at home or in cold-storage lockers.

The regulations contain further good news for waterfowl hunters in Quebec and Ontario. Improved wood-duck conditions have made possible an increase in limits in those provinces. The daily bag limit

remains at 2 but the possession limit has been increased to 4. Hunters in Ontario and Quebec will also be able to increase their daily bag limit on and after October 27 by taking 2 additional scaup or goldeneye ducks. After that date, the possession limit is increased by 4 of either species.

ESTIMATED POPULATION

The estimated population of Canada at the beginning of the third quarter of 1962 was 18,600,000, an increase of 331,000 or 1.8 per cent since July 1, 1961, and 362,000 or 2.0 per cent since the Census of July 1, 1961. The largest quarterly increase was 94,000 between April 1 and July 1 of this year. The other quarterly increases were 88,000 between July 1 and October 1, 1961, 77,000 between October 1, 1961, and January 1, 1962, and the smallest, 74,000, between January 1 and April 1 this year.

Quebec had the largest increase since July 1, 1961, at 109,000. Ontario was second, with an increase of 104,000. Alberta was third with a 38,000 increase. However, this was the highest percentage increase at 2.9 per cent, compared to 2.1 per cent for Quebec and 1.7 per cent for Ontario. British Columbia increased 31,000 or 1.9 per cent in the year ending July 1, 1962. Manitoba increased by 13,000 or 1.4 per cent, Newfoundland by 12,000 or 2.6 per cent, New Brunswick by 9,000 or 1.5 per cent, Nova Scotia by 8,000 or 1.0 per cent, Saskatchewan by 5,000 or 0.5 per cent, and Prince Edward Island by 1,000 or 0.9 per cent.

JAPANESE LIVESTOCK MISSION

A Japanese livestock mission visited Canada as guests of the Canadian Government from August 20 to September 2. The six-man mission was composed of Japanese governmental livestock experts, officials of livestock associations in Japan and an agricultural journalist.

The decision to invite this mission to Canada was based on the knowledge that the Japanese Government was endeavouring to develop the Japanese livestock and poultry industries by the importation of high-quality breeding stock. Mission members were shown the quality of livestock and poultry available in Canada. It is expected that, as a result of their reports, the Japanese Government and livestock industry will look to Canada as an ideal source of supply for livestock and poultry.

TOUR DETAILS

The mission began its tour on August 20 at Ottawa, where discussions were held with the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. James A. Roberts, and officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce. From August 21 to August 25, visits were made to dairy and beef cattle herds, to poultry-breeding establishments and to an artificial-insemination unit in Southwestern Ontario. August 22 and 23 were spent at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, where the mission members saw some of Canada's finest livestock as well as other agricultural exhibits.

(Over)

The mission then proceeded west, spending August 27 to August 30 in the Calgary area visiting cattle ranches. A visit was also paid to the Department of Agriculture's Experimental Farm at Lacombe, where the outstanding new "Lacombe" breed of swine was developed.

On August 30 the mission went to Vancouver, where August 31 and September 1 were spent visiting dairy herds and poultry-processing plants in the Vancouver area. The mission ended September 2, when its members left Vancouver for Tokyo.

The mission was accompanied by Mr. Tokutaro Kawai, Commercial Assistant at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, who acted as interpreter, and by Mr. K.L. Melvin, Chief of the Livestock and Animal Products Division, Agriculture and Fisheries Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

NEW OCCUPATIONAL MONOGRAPH

A new vocational guidance booklet entitled *Electrical and Electronic Occupations*, which is No. 16 in the CANADIAN OCCUPATIONS series, has been released by the Department of Labour. The 96-page publication deals with a wide variety of occupations related to the important field of electrical and electronic technology, including the work of electrical tradesmen and technicians and technical workers in electric-power generation, radio and television broadcasting and telecommunications.

Each group is covered according to its history and importance, nature of its work, preparation and training, working conditions, personal qualities needed and employment outlook. Generously illustrated and printed in an attractive format, the booklet provides young readers interested in electricity and electronics with a broad picture of the career opportunities in this dynamic field.

THE SERIES

The CANADIAN OCCUPATIONS series covers a broad range of occupational groups, including many professions. Prepared by the Labour Department's Economic and Research Branch, the booklets help to meet the demand for current information on Canadian occupations from young people planning for their careers, from parents, teachers and vocational-guidance counsellors, from workers wishing to change their occupations, from employment-service officers, personnel directors and union officials, and from others.

HUNTING ICEBERGS

"Iceberg!" cried the lookout. "Bearing green two zero!". The keen-eyed cadet on lookout duty aboard HMCS "Lauzon", one of five Royal Canadian Navy frigates in the squadron, had earned the captain's plaques for being the first on board to sight an iceberg during the voyage northward to Hudson Bay.

After the first sighting, which came two days out from St. John's, Newfoundland, other bergs came into view with increasing frequency. In awesome procession, they were moving south on their annual mission of menace to the western approaches of the North Atlantic shipping lanes.

The International Ice Patrol, formed after the "Titanic" disaster 50 years ago, keeps close watch on the movement of the ice mountains and issues regular warnings on their location.

TARGET PRACTICE

It was the first time most of the 100 officer cadets of the University Naval Training Division embarked with the squadron had seen an iceberg. When a particularly large one was sighted at a range of 10 miles, Commander K.E. Grant, the squadron commander, ordered an alteration of course toward the berg and closed up the four-inch gun crews for some spectacular target practice. The berg absorbed about 12 hits with high explosive shells, which somewhat altered the profile of its towering bulk, estimated to be 150 feet high. The "Cap De La Madeleine" led in the sharpshooting. The first to open fire at the extreme range of seven miles, she registered hits with all six rounds. For good measure, the "Lauzon" plastered the iceberg with close-range Bofors fire in passing.

Besides "Lauzon" and "Cap De La Madeleine", the squadron consists of HMCS "La Hullose", "Swansea" and "Buckingham". These warships are on a 6,000-mile round-trip training cruise from Halifax, round the northern tip of Labrador and Quebec, across Hudson Bay to Churchill, Manitoba, and back.

During the voyage, the officer cadets on board have participated in jackstay transfers from one ship to another, in gunnery, boat lowering, watch-keeping, helmsmanship, and in rocket and small-arms practice.