



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 16 No. 7

February 15, 1961

## CONTENTS

Canada's Domestic Technical Assistance .....	1
Toby Robins to Stratford .....	4
Foreign Trade 1960 .....	4
Winter Oil Exploration .....	4

Engineering Mission .....	5
Trueman at Tagore Centenary .....	5
Revised Price Index .....	5
Hog Price Supports .....	6

## CANADA'S DOMESTIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The following is the text, somewhat abridged, of a speech by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, to the St. George's United Church Men's Club, Ottawa, on February 8:

"...The term 'technical assistance', of course, enjoys wide usage today. In fact, in relation to international affairs, it has become almost a household word. The newspapers and magazines, television and radio, all are filled with stories regarding technical assistance programmes sponsored by the United Nations, the Colombo Plan, and by individual countries. And, as you know, Canada has taken an active part in many of these projects which are designed basically to raise living standards in the so-called under-developed areas of the world.

"In view of its prominence on the world scene, Canadians may be rather surprised to learn that we also carry out extensive technical assistance programmes right inside our own country. I am thinking of the health field, and particularly of my Department's services to the provinces and through them to local areas....

### PROVINCIAL HEALTH RESOURCES

"One might ask immediately why this type of technical assistance is needed. Does it imply, for example, that the provinces are under-developed areas? Not at all. It is a fact, however, that health resources do vary considerably across the country. And since, ac-

cording to the British North America Act, the primary responsibility for health is assigned to the provinces, they find themselves in a position of having to make the most of what is at hand within their own jurisdictions. At the same time, they do benefit from the fact that the Dominion Government has long assumed that it also has a health responsibility. This is to ensure that all Canadians enjoy equal access to health services wherever they may live -- in large urban areas, in rural districts, and in isolated parts of the country like our vast Arctic region.

"In order to carry out this responsibility and yet avoid interfering with provincial and local affairs, the Dominion Government through my Department has developed a two-pronged approach -- financial grants to the provinces, and technical assistance. So this is how technical assistance fits into the picture.

### HEALTH EXPERTS ON CALL

"And what exactly is involved in this technical assistance? Fundamentally, it involves having available experts in various health specialties who can serve as consultants whenever requested by the provinces. These consultants cover a wide range of disciplines. We have on our staff, for example, doctors, dentists, nurses, chemists, physicists, pharmacists, economists, engineers and lawyers. All these people and others are constantly at the disposal of the provinces to assist with any problems that may arise.

(Over)

"Besides encouraging an equalization of health resources throughout the country, this technical assistance has other important advantages. In the first instance, it adds to efficiency of operation. As you know, the health field today has become highly complex and specialized. Thanks to our consultants, the provinces do not all have to hire personnel who are expert in all the various fields. They can use our people, which is a particular asset to those provinces with relatively small populations. Secondly, our consultants add greatly to the effectiveness of provincial programmes in the sense that they can bring a national or even an international outlook to bear on a particular problem. Being familiar with what is being done in other parts of Canada and in other countries, they can contribute this knowledge towards the solution of difficulties in individual cases. In other words, they can act as a kind of channel for the interchange of information and experience.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

"But consultant services are by no means the only method of technical assistance. Also of significance are a whole series of what are called 'Advisory Committees to the Minister of National Health and Welfare'. Meeting periodically in Ottawa, these committees are made up of federal and provincial officials as well as representatives of the health professions and of voluntary health agencies. One of them--the Dominion Council of Health--actually dates back more than forty years, long before our present Department was in existence. In addition to this important organization, which is really the cornerstone of all federal-provincial co-operation in public health, we now have Advisory Committees on Mental Health, on Maternal and Child Health, on Public Health Engineering, on Public Health Laboratory Services, and on Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services....

"At the moment, plans are under way for the establishment of a further Advisory Committee. This will have to do with Emergency Health Services, which are an integral part of Canada's national survival programme.

"Averaging between 16 and 20 full-time members each, these Committees are assisted by a number of sub-committees that deal with such specialized subjects as standards of care, research, health education, personnel and physical resources, and statistics. Broadly speaking, an Advisory Committee serves three basic functions: first, as its title implies, it provides advice and counsel to the Minister and the Department on the meeting of problems and the development of programmes; second, it provides a forum for the exchange of information and views among all the major groups involved in any particular field; third, it enables us to enlist the support and co-operation of outstanding leaders in various health disciplines that would not be possible on a continuing basis in any other way.

"I think this latter function deserves special emphasis, because it represents an area of voluntary service which is little appreciated by Canadians at large. Thanks to the willingness of such leading experts to make their services available without charge, our public-health efforts are bolstered by a degree of professional and voluntary support that has proved absolutely invaluable. In fact, no matter what health field may be chosen, one will find that the top experts from all across the country are associated in some way with our plans and programmes. This is a tremendous asset, and I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the contribution these people make to the nation's health progress.

#### SPECIALTY GROUPING

"Returning to the consultant arm of technical assistance, I might point out that our experts are grouped in a series of divisions within the Department according to the specialty involved. As a matter of fact, there are no fewer than 22 such divisions, covering such diverse subjects as civil aviation medicine, epidemiology, hospital design, nutrition, occupational health and radiation protection.

"Some of these divisions, such as the Dominion Council of Health, have a history considerably predating the formation of our present Department. Indeed, federal authorities took an interest in tuberculosis and typhoid even before 1919 when the first divisions dealing with child welfare and venereal-disease control were set up. The Laboratory of Hygiene traces its origins back to 1921, while public-health engineering and hospital-design advisory services were available as early as 1923. So this is a development of long-standing, although it did not reach its full flowering until after the present Department of National Health and Welfare came into being in 1944.

#### HOSPITAL INSURANCE CONSULTANT SERVICE

"One of the more recently-established consultant services has to do with hospital insurance; I should like to say something of its role in the development of our nation-wide programme in this regard. Here was an effort that without doubt represented the most ambitious joint project ever undertaken by federal and provincial governments in the health field. Even once the basic outlines had been laid down, the scope and variety of details to be worked out was simply staggering. That they have been worked out, and worked out successfully, is, I believe, owing more than anything else to the pattern of technical assistance and co-operation that had grown up over the years and which could be brought to bear on this enormous problem.

"At the core of the insurance programme are, of course, the agreements signed by the Dominion Government with each of the participating provinces. These agreements are not

simply legal documents authorizing the payment of federal money to the provinces. They also contain precise details on such important and complex matters as quality of care, availability of resources, and the techniques by which the provinces seek to ensure effective utilization of hospital beds. In short, they amount to working models from which all provincial programmes have been developed.

GREATEST CHALLENGE

"To design such working models without having any real precedents to go on was a task of major proportions. In fact, it was probably the greatest single challenge ever presented to our technical assistance structure. Not only were the Department's consultants heavily involved in visits to provincial capitals but formal conferences of federal and provincial authorities were also called into play. These gradually evolved until now they have taken permanent form as the Advisory Committee on Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services.

"In all of this effort, the Province of Ontario played a key role. Its agreement was the first to be concluded, which meant that its officials were involved in the real ground-breaking work. Each agreement is, of course, a unique entity, in that it is tailored to meet the particular needs and traditions of a province. Nevertheless, I think it is fair to say that the document developed with Ontario authorities has served as a basic pattern for negotiations with all the other provinces. Moreover...the Ontario agreement has worked out extremely well in practice which, after all, is the final test.

"Passing on to other areas of technical assistance, I want to say a few words about our Child and Maternal Health Division. Employing a paediatrician, a medical consultant, a nursing consultant and a technical officer, it is more or less typical of the 20-odd other groups that represent the 'arms and legs' of the Department's consultant services. It is also served, as I have pointed out, by one of the Advisory Committees.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TEAMWORK

"My real point in mentioning this division is to illustrate how our technical-assistance efforts complement and support our financial aid programmes. Ever since 1948, the Department has operated a system of health grants to the provinces directed at stimulating and assisting the creation and expansion of health services and facilities across Canada. Beginning in 1953, one of these national health grants has been devoted to the area of maternal and child-health care.

"How do our consultant services support these grant funds? First of all, every year the provinces send representatives to Ottawa to discuss the amount and use of grant funds in their area for the next 12 months. In the case of child and maternal care, these provincial representatives meet our paediatrician

for the purpose of exchanging ideas and views as to how provincial efforts should develop and the way in which federal financial assistance could be most effective.

EXTENT OF FEDERAL AID

"Now supposing, that from such discussions, a province should decide to undertake a programme of prenatal classes for expectant parents. Equipment and staff salaries for such a project could be provided through the Child and Maternal Health Grant. But federal assistance need not stop there. If the province so desires, and this has actually happened in several cases, the Child and Maternal Health Division could send its nursing consultant to the province to conduct an institute for nurses with a view to advising them how best to carry forward the prenatal-class programme.

"This, of course, illustrates only one small segment of the division's work but I think it does show how valuable technical assistance can be in a concrete case. The fact is that, in many instances, the furnishing of money for provincial projects is not enough. The provision of advice and help from experts in employing the funds provided is of equal importance in ensuring an effective and economical attack on a particular problem.

"From this rather typical example of the Department's technical assistance programmes, I should like to turn to what is perhaps our most unusual effort in this regard. I am thinking of the Laboratory of Hygiene located in Ottawa, which serves as a national public-health laboratory for all Canada. Its responsibilities are so diverse that it would take a whole speech to begin to do them justice. Since my time is already running out, I will simply touch on a few outstanding points.

"...One of the Laboratory's chief functions with respect to technical assistance is as a national reference centre. Let me indicate briefly what this can involve.

A TYPICAL CASE

"Suppose, for example, that a person goes into hospital in...rural Saskatchewan with an infection of the intestinal tract. Hospital tests soon spot the presence of typhoid bacteria and the patient is given the appropriate treatment. From the scientific viewpoint, however, this is not the end of the process. Since there are many different strains of typhoid bacteria, and since hospital laboratory facilities are necessarily limited, a culture would be sent forward to the provincial laboratory where further identification could be carried out. I might say that quite often the provincial laboratory will be using testing agents provided by our Laboratory of Hygiene as part of its technical assistance programme. From the provincial laboratory, a culture would then be sent to the national laboratory in Ottawa, either for final identification or for confirmation of provincial findings.

(Continued on P. 6)

## TOBY ROBINS TO STRATFORD

Toby Robins, one of Canada's most popular television personalities and stage actresses, has been signed for the role of Rosaline in Michael Langham's production of "Love's Labour's Lost." The comedy, one of three Shakespearean plays to be presented at the 1961 Stratford Festival, will have its first performance on June 21 and for the balance of the summer will be seen in repertory with "Coriolanus" and "Henry VIII." Later in the season, this trio of plays will be joined by Donald Lamont Jack's new Canadian comedy, "The Canvas Barricade," the first contemporary play to be presented on the Festival Theatre stage.

This will be Miss Robins' second appearance at the Stratford Festival. In 1954, she was seen as Mariana in "Measure for Measure." That, however, was during the days of the tent theatre.

\* \* \* \*

## FOREIGN TRADE 1960

Canada's trade with other countries reached a new peak in 1960 of \$10,891,100,000, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was an increase of 2.3 per cent over the 1959 value of \$10,649,200,000. Total exports in 1960 were valued at \$5,395,300,000, a rise of 5 per cent over the previous record attained in the preceding year, while imports at \$5,495,800,000 were fractionally less than in 1959. The import balance, estimated at \$100,500,000, was reduced to slightly more than a quarter of last year's total and was the lowest since 1954. This situation developed unevenly throughout the year, exports climbing irregularly but with lesser impetus at the close and imports tending to decrease in the latter half.

### EXPORT-IMPORT BALANCE

Total exports in the fourth quarter of 1960 were valued at \$1,399,900,000, a decline of 3.3 per cent from the total for the October-December period of 1959. This was mainly due to decreased exports to the United States, shipments to other countries showing gains. Compared to 1959 figures, exports advanced considerably in the first quarter of 1960 and moderately in the third but were less in the second quarter. Imports rose considerably in the first quarter but fell in the second and third quarters. Imports for the fourth quarter of 1960 were estimated at \$1,394,500,000, a decrease of 0.5 per cent from the same quarter of 1959. Only imports from the Commonwealth countries, other than the United Kingdom, showed an advance in comparison with the last months of 1959. There was a small export balance of trade in the final quarter of 1960 of \$5,400,000.

In 1960 there was some change in the direction of Canada's export trade, fewer goods going to the United States and more to other areas. Last year, 56.3 per cent of Canadian exports were forwarded to the United States, as against 61.9 per cent in 1959. The United Kingdom's share was 17.1 per cent, an increase from 15.4 per cent in 1959, and other Commonwealth countries took 6.2 per cent in 1960 as against 5.4 per cent the preceding year. A larger portion went to the remaining group of other countries, which purchased 20.4 per cent of Canadian goods sold abroad in the past year as compared to 17.3 per cent in 1959. The shares of imports provided in 1960 by the United States of 67.3 per cent and by the United Kingdom of 10.7 per cent were identical in 1959. Other Commonwealth countries supplied 5.0 per cent of imports and all other countries 17.0 per cent in 1960 as compared to 4.4 per cent and 17.6 per cent, respectively, in the preceding year.

Exports to the United States in the fourth quarter of 1960 fell 16.7 per cent to \$733,300,000 from \$880,600,000 for October-December 1959. Imports declined fractionally to \$916,500,000 from \$919,300,000, so that the import balance rose to \$183,200,000. For the year, however, exports declined 4.6 per cent and imports 0.3 per cent when compared with 1959 totals, the increases in the first quarter for both exports and imports being more than offset in the following nine months. Exports amounted to \$3,036,400,000 in 1960 as compared to \$3,181,900,000 in 1959 and imports were \$3,696,900,000 as against \$3,709,100,000, respectively. The year closed with an import balance of \$660,500,000 as compared with \$527,200,000 for 1959.

\* \* \* \*

## WINTER OIL EXPLORATION

An oil-exploration programme costing approximately \$10 million is being carried out in vast areas of the Yukon and Northwest Territories during the winter months, in the continuing search for gas and oil in Canada's north. The programme will include both drilling and seismic operations.

The areas of greatest drilling activities are in the Liard and Ford Good Hope plains. Some 30 to 40 oil companies are taking part in the exploratory programme, and approximately 20 wells will be started. Direct drilling expenses will be in the order of \$6 million, while \$1 million will be spent on road-building, transportation and supplies.

### FEWER WELLS

The number of wells that are being drilled this year has decreased, compared to a high of approximately 30 wells for the same period in 1959-60. The proposed locations for wells being drilled this year are in areas where seismic work has been done, cutting down on random drilling.

Seismic operations have increased considerably over last year and should be reflected in an increased drilling programme next year. It is expected that \$2 million will be spent on seismic exploration, with an additional \$1 million being spent on goods and services related to these operations. The private contractors responsible for this phase of exploration have approximately 10 crews active this winter.

\* \* \* \*

### ENGINEERING MISSION

Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has announced that a Canadian trade mission of construction engineers will visit Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Trinidad and Jamaica in order to familiarize themselves with opportunities for construction in the countries concerned. They will meet government officials, architects and consulting engineers, contractors and bankers, and also persons who may be interested in acting as their representatives. Thus they will be afforded an opportunity of providing information on the ability of Canadian firms to undertake a wide variety of tasks. Climatic and other conditions present Canadian contractors with so many different problems that they are able to apply this experience in other lands.

#### A PREVIOUS MISSION

Mr. Hees said that the decision to organize such a mission was due, in large measure, to the success achieved by the mission of Canadian consulting engineers that visited South America last September. So much interest was aroused in government and professional circles, and the Canadians were so warmly welcomed, that it was felt an allied group of engineers should visit other countries in Latin America.

Eight firms, including one from Calgary and one from Vancouver, will be represented on the mission, members of which will assemble in Mexico City on February 19. The tour will end in Kingston, Jamaica, on March 14. The group will be accompanied by Mr. David N. Mott, of the Engineering and Equipment Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, who will act as secretary.

#### JOINT CONTRACTS PROPOSED

The Canadian engineers are aware that experienced contractors operate in each of the countries they will visit. They aim to determine the possibility of entering into agreements with locally-established firms with a view to undertaking contracts on a joint basis. Engineers in various countries develop special skills and techniques, which may be "exported" and utilized in other lands with particular problems.

Much interest has been shown by Canadian engineers in foreign projects. They have undertaken major assignments, under provisions

of the Colombo Plan for the Economic Development of South and Southeast Asia, in India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Many contracts have been secured in The West Indies, while work has been performed in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The projects executed abroad include an atomic reactor in India, a newsprint mill, cement plant and the Warsak Dam, in Pakistan, together with the construction of radio stations and the erection of hotels.

\* \* \* \*

### TRUEMAN AT TAGORE CENTENARY

Dr. A.W. Trueman, Director of the Canada Council, recently travelled to Bombay to take part in the centenary celebrations in honour of the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore. The celebrations were held from January 1 to 7 as the thirty-sixth session of the All-Indian Bengali Literary Conference and were inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru. The conference, attended by representatives of some 23 countries, dealt with various aspects of Tagore's work. Dr. Trueman opened the January 2 meeting with an address entitled "Tagore as a World Figure".

While he was in the East, Mr. Trueman visited several other countries and discussed with officials in India, Pakistan, Malaya and Australia problems of the encouragement and support of the arts and letters.

\* \* \* \*

### REVISED PRICE INDEX

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics announces that a revision of the Consumer Price Index is now nearing completion. The primary purpose of the revision is to bring the items included in the index and their relative importance in line with more current family purchases as reported in a family expenditure survey of 1957. The time-base will not be changed and the revised index will continue on the base 1949=100. Thus, month-to-month movements will reflect 1957 rather than 1948 family-buying habits, but the index will continue to measure percentage change in prices from 1949. In view of the fact that the 1949 base is being retained, the revision will not affect wage contracts in which escalation is based on the index.

It is expected that the revised Consumer Price Index will be introduced early in April with publication of the March index. With the appearance of the revised index the old series will be discontinued, but the new index will be published for the 4-year period 1957-60 so that the two series can be compared. A detailed description of the revised index will be published during the latter part of March.

The weights in the revised series will reflect changes in purchases of Canadian families that took place between the years 1948 and 1957. The most significant change was

a decline in the relative importance of food, which now takes a smaller portion of the consumer dollar spent for goods and services. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the relative importance of a variety of other commodities and services, particularly the purchase and operation of passenger cars. There has also been a marked shift in the relative positions of coal and fuel oil in family purchases. In addition, some 38 items are being added to the sample of commodities and services priced, while only five will be dropped. Additions will include such items as frozen foods, restaurant meals, electric frying pans and television sets.

\* \* \* \*

### HOG PRICE SUPPORTS

Hog prices during the calendar year 1961 will be stabilized by a deficiency-payment programme similar to that in effect last year, Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton told the House of Commons recently.

The support price to producers has been established at \$22.65 a hundredweight, national basis, which is about 83.5 per cent of the base or 10-year average price of \$27.11 a hundredweight.

Mr. Hamilton said the action taken by the Government in placing hog support on a deficiency-payment basis had had the anticipated effect of eliminating the previous surplus production and greatly improving hog prices.

Over the past year, prices to producers have averaged about \$1.00 a hundredweight more than the national support price. A year ago, the price of Grade A hogs at Toronto was \$23.65. It is now \$29.00 and it has been at or above that level for some time.

### WARNING AGAINST OVER-PRODUCTION

"There is a very real danger that present prices may encourage a level of hog production which could lead to heavy supplies and much lower prices later this year," Mr. Hamilton said. "While some expansion in production can be accommodated, a warning must be sounded to producers against over-expansion at this time. This situation is widely recognized and provincial departments of agriculture and others are calling attention to it." The Minister pointed out that, for these reasons, the Government had decided to retain the national support price for 1961 at the same level as last year.

Under the deficiency-payment method of support, the Agricultural Stabilization Board will determine at the end of 1961 the national average price to producers at which Grade A hogs were sold. If this average price is less than the support price of \$22.65 a hundredweight, then a deficiency payment equal to the difference will be made to each registered producer on a maximum 100 Grade A or Grade B hogs.

### CANADA'S DOMESTIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Continued from P. 3)

"Now you may ask what practical purpose has been served by this lengthy process? After all, almost at the outset the patient was treated and his health restored. Well there are a number of important objectives achieved. The Laboratory of Hygiene has been given information that, when added to that provided from similar cases in other parts of the country, enables it to study and keep track of epidemics. The data from all such cases are compiled and published monthly so that the provinces also are kept abreast of the situation. Aside from tracking epidemics, which fortunately, in the case of typhoid, are now very rare, the process serves another useful function. It helps identify and track down carriers of typhoid who, of course, can still be a great menace to any community.

"I might add that many other types of disease, including virus infections, are dealt with in a similar fashion but this one example will, I think, give you a general idea of how the Laboratory of Hygiene functions in its capacity as a national reference centre. Another area in which it provides valuable technical assistance is in the expansion and improvement of provincial and hospital laboratory services.

"Right at the moment, for instance, the director of the Laboratory and other staff members are about to undertake, in co-operation with Ontario authorities, a comprehensive study of the province's public health and laboratory services....

"Besides such special projects, the Laboratory of Hygiene, as I have said, provides testing materials for the use of its provincial counterparts and also, on occasion, conducts refresher courses to instruct provincial staff on the latest techniques and to help them standardize their procedures in line with those of other provinces. As far as hospital laboratories are concerned, these have been improved by the provision of detailed manuals of testing procedures, by the provision of standard tests for such things as haemoglobin, and by the sending out of test specimens to allow hospitals to rate their own procedures by comparison with national standards.

These latter activities may sound rather trivial but taken together they have had a very definite effect on raising the level of laboratory services available throughout the country. One final point might be mentioned in this regard. The Laboratory of Hygiene also serves in a consultant capacity for all national health grants related to laboratory services. Prior to the introduction of the Hospital Insurance Programme, the health grants were used extensively to extend provincial and hospital laboratory services. Now, of course, hospital laboratory services are covered under the insurance plan...."