

Canadian Indians Win Fight Against Disease

OTTAWA (CP)—Canada's Indian population is fighting a winning battle against tuberculosis.

Health Minister Martin said today in the Commons that the tuberculosis death rate among Indians dropped 45 per cent during the last five years.

He spoke during consideration of his department's 1952-53 estimates.

During the discussion, he made these points:

1. The "greater" care is exercised in examination of persons wanting to emigrate to Canada.

2. A \$400,000 virus laboratory soon will be built in Ottawa. It will specialize in research on the poliomyelitic group of viruses.

3. Regulations are being prepared which will make it obligatory for bakers to indicate in wrappings the whole wheat flour content of brown bread.

4. The eskimos are no longer a disappearing race; their population is increasing about 1 1/2 per cent each year.

5. A new drug addiction problem has arisen in the manufacture of certain synthetic chemicals and is being watched closely by health authorities in Canada and the United States. Some of the synthetic drugs have strong addiction properties.

At the House opening, Prime Minister St. Laurent said the bulk of the government's legislative program has been placed before parliament.

Mr. St. Laurent also said the Canadian Government expressed concern about political developments in South Korea to the United Nations, United States and Britain.

In the health debate, Mr. Martin said the health program among Indians has not by any means solved the problem of the scourge of tuberculosis among

Indians. But progress is being made.

In 1948 the tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 of population was 579.1 among Indians, 41.9 among whites and for all Canada was 47.4. Figures for 1948 were 490.1 for Indians, 32.1 for white and 37 for all Canada.

By 1950 this had been reduced to 298.8 for Indians, 22 for white and 25.9 for all Canada.

Douglas Harkness (PC-Calgary East) said the tuberculosis rate among Indians still is 13 or 14 times greater than the rate among whites. This indicated the need for additional measures.

Mr. Martin replied that surveys are being extended among Indians just as quickly as funds and staff permits.

As for eskimos, it is somewhat more difficult to reach them. But their population is increasing possibly as a result of greater medical attention. The department he said, is "greatly concerned" about the welfare of Canada's Eskimo population of 7,000 or 8,000.

The labelling of brown bread was raised by Stanley Knowles (CCF-Winnipeg North Centre). He said that some brown bread actually is white bread dyed brown. He did not wish to suggest that the dye is harmful, but people thought they were getting whole wheat bread when actually they were getting white bread.

Mr. Martin, who has trimmed 30 pounds off his weight by dieting, said he had learned by experience that not all brown bread is non-fattening.

Regulations now being drafted will make it necessary for labels to show the whole wheat content of brown bread.

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Divorces Down In Canada

OTTAWA (CP)—The number of divorces granted in Canada decreased during 1951 is down for the fourth consecutive year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today. During the last four years the divorce rate fell from 65.3 to 36.9 per 100,000 persons.

Preliminary figures from 1951 place the number of divorces last year at 5,163, a decrease of four per cent from 1950. The record number was 8,199 in 1947.

Divorces declined in seven provinces but increased in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec.

British Columbia had the highest divorce rate—114.9 per 100,000 population. Rates for other provinces: Alberta 62.7, Manitoba 46.5, Ontario 43.5, New Brunswick 30.2, Nova Scotia 29.1, Saskatchewan 27.2, Prince Edward Island 10.2, Quebec 7.1, and Newfoundland 1.1.



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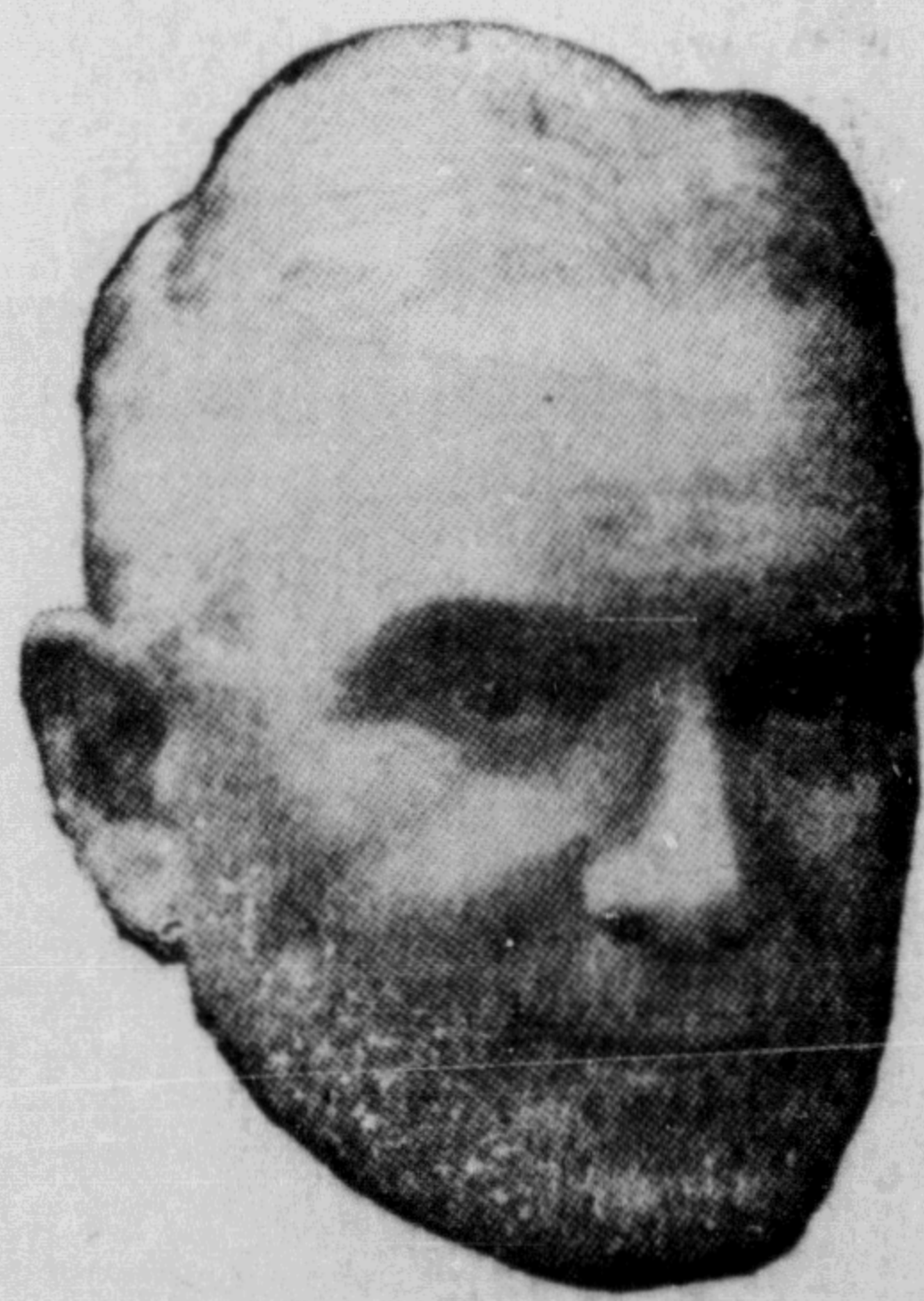
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