participates in studies connected with control of pollution of boundary waters between Canada and the United States and with problems caused by atmospheric pollution. Other international health responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin and hormone standards for the World Health Organization and certain duties in connection with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations.

FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG LEGISLATION IN CANADA*

The food and drug industries and trades make up the largest group of businesses in Canada when the production, manufacturing and importation of these commodities are considered along with wholesale and retail trades. Excluding the farmers involved in production but including persons employed in retail establishments, these industries provide the livelihood of more than 190,000 Canadians in more than 60,000 businesses, large and small. Canadians spend about $5,000,000,000 a year for foods and drugs. The potential hazards to health and the possibility of serious fraud and deception in the sale and use of these commodities that are so essential to existence have prompted the passing of special legislation which exercises control over their manufacture and sale.

The present Food and Drugs Act is a federal statute with provisions applying to the manufacture, advertising, packaging and sale of foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices anywhere in Canada. There are no similar provincial laws. This federal law exists for the protection of the consumer; it is not intended to assist the sale of products through grading, nor does it exist to protect Canadian products from competition from abroad. Imports and domestic products are treated alike by this Act.

Food and drug legislation of some kind has been known in the world for centuries—the Assize of Bread in England as long ago as 1266 and the condemnation of carcasses of tainted beef by the mayor of the City of London in 1319. The first Canadian law of general scope was "An Act to Impose Licence Duties on the Compounders of Spirits and to Prevent the Adulteration of Food, Drink and Drugs" passed by Parliament in May 1874 and became effective on Jan. 1, 1875. In this Act the present Food and Drugs Act had its origin. There have been many minor and several major amendments to the law since 1874, the most recent being passed in 1953. The original law was the first such law of national scope in the Americas. There has been continuous enforcement since 1875.

The 1953 law has very wide scope and powers. There is authority provided (1) to establish standards of composition or identity for foods, drugs and cosmetics and standards for medical devices; (2) to prohibit the sale of foods that are dirty, harmful, rotten or disgusting, adulterated or manufactured or stored under unsanitary conditions; (3) to prohibit the sale of drugs manufactured under unsanitary conditions or that are adulterated; (4) to provide standards for all drugs; (5) to require licences for certain biological preparations and antibiotics; (6) to prohibit the sale of harmful cosmetics or those made under unsanitary conditions and to set standards for cosmetics; (7) to prohibit the sale of harmful medical devices; and (8) to prohibit the advertising, labelling, packaging or processing of foods, drugs and medical devices "in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character, value, quantity, composition, merit or safety". The Act has a clause that prohibits the advertising of any food, drug, cosmetic or device to the general public as a treatment, preventative or cure for a number of serious diseases and also lists drugs that may be sold only on prescription. The maximum penalty for violation of the Act is three years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

The practical enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act requires that certain sections of the Act be supplemented by regulations interpreting the meaning of the Act. Consequently, there has grown up over the years a considerable volume of regulations which provide standards, set forth requirements for labelling and establish prohibitions or exemptions for certain substances or classes of substances within the scope of the Act.

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