

See Relationship Between Lung Cancer And Increasing Industrial Fumes

By JOHN TRACY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
HONEY HARBOR, Ont. (CP)—A United States scientist says there is no basis for any claim that shows that smoking is the main cause of lung cancer. He linked the increasing frequency of the disease with air pollution.

Dr. W. C. Huper of the National Cancer Institute at Bethesda, Md., said Thursday the "pattern exhibited by lung cancers for different regions and population groups performs more closely with that shown by industrial development than with one which might be expected as the result of carcinogenic (cancer-causing) action of a single environmental factor, such as cigarette smoking."

He delivered a paper on environmental aspects of lung cancer at the Canadian Cancer Research Conference. During a discussion period he said evidence about cigarette smoking and lung cancer does not exclude the possibility of a relation between smoking and lung cancer. But, if you take the total evidence, I don't think there is any basis for the claim that cigarette smoking is the main cause of lung cancer. That would be stretching the evidence to the breaking point.

Dr. A. J. Phillips of Toronto, a statistician with the National Cancer Institute of Canada, said his data indicated a definite increase in male deaths due to lung cancer in Canada.

He said deaths among both sexes was 2 per cent of all deaths in 1931. For 1952 the figure had risen to 1.2 per cent.

Dr. Phillips, who did not deal with possible causes, said the United Kingdom, the U. S. and Denmark had reported increases in lung cancer deaths equal to or greater than those in Canada.

A Quebec gynaecologist, Dr. L. F. Gagnon, said he found the incidence of lung cancer among nuns, "who definitely don't smoke," was about the same as for the population. In 20 years of research

he had noted 221 cases of cancer among nuns and eight of these involved lung cancer.

Dr. Huper said investigators have found the local incidence rates of lung cancer in England and Wales during 1921, 1939, 1946 and 1948 disclosed a relationship to air pollution through smoke from chimneys in built-up areas.

There was evidence that some metals and metal compounds when inhaled as dust, fumes or mist are capable of producing respiratory cancers. He mentioned industries involving nickel chromates, asbestos, arsenic and petroleum as among those where workers were exposed to occupational risk of lung cancer.

No unusual frequency of respiratory cancers had been observed, however, among workers at the Sudbury, Ont., nickel-ore mines or smelters in Canada. Nor was there any evidence of excessive lung cancer incidence among coal miners.

Noting that the yearly sale of pesticides such as DDT are here to stay and the problem now is to learn how to live with them, W. L. Bell, industrial toxicologist with the health department, said Thursday.

He said the yearly sale of pesticides amounts to \$50,000,000, he said the agriculture department estimates that a return of \$10 in increased crops is realized for each dollar spent on pesticides.

"They are here to stay and it is our task as health officials to learn how to live with them," he said in a speech prepared for delivery to the 20th anniversary conference of the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors.

The main problem of pesticides is in determining their effect on humans and in finding antidotes to them. This was done largely through experiments on rats and rabbits in the health department's occupational health laboratory.

Through experiments with DDT on rats, the laboratory had found that it was the best antidote for a nerve gas. The DDT, however, had to be administered first.

"The practical value of the discovery, if humans are the same as rats," Mr. Bell said, "is that if we knew we were to be exposed to a nerve gas, we could pre-treat ourselves with DDT and withstand seven times as much of the former."

Probably the most dramatic example of the contribution of pesticides to the control of disease was the success of DDT in eradicating malaria.

"In 1945 there were 400,000 cases of malaria in Italy with 380 deaths. In Greece during the period 1940-45 there were an average of 4,000 deaths a year from this mosquito-borne disease."

Shortly after 1945 widespread use of DDT for house spraying was started and in 1951 only 390 cases of malaria, with no deaths, were reported in Italy. In Greece the same year only seven deaths were attributed to malaria."

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Later, Mrs. Marc Lacasse, Gagnon's sister, said he had been ill for several weeks from a nervous and intestinal trouble and his condition had become so serious he was admitted to a New York Hospital.

Dr. Fontaine, whose testimony was corroborated by Mr. Fortin, said he had made contact with Dr. Irving S. Baum, a New York doctor who had signed a certificate which was produced in court last Monday.

Dr. Baum said he had been called to treat a Mr. Gagnon who complained of pain, the witness testified. Dr. Baum had administered a "light sedative."

The court was told that Dr. Fontaine and Mr. Fortin—assisted by an investigator assigned by New York authorities—could not find Gagnon in any of the New York hospitals.

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Ontario's Lands And Forests Minister Dies Minutes After Delivering Speech

NORTH BAY, Ont. (CP)—Hon. Welland Stewart Gemmill, 43, Sudbury district merchant who directed the use and protection of Ontario's timberlands as provincial minister of lands and forests for the last two years, died Friday in his hotel room.

The big, broad-shouldered northerner who formerly served as Ontario mines minister was stricken 10 minutes after he completed a luncheon address to a regional conference of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

His death was attributed to a heart seizure.

He had been scheduled to open a new chief ranger's headquarters at Trout Lake, three miles from North Bay, later in the afternoon. Later, the plans for the opening ceremony were cancelled.

After finishing his speech here, Mr. Gemmill went immediately to his hotel suite to await the trip to Trout Lake.

IN POOR HEALTH
He removed his jacket and lay

down, complaining that he felt unwell. Two doctors were called, but, by the time they arrived, Mr. Gemmill was dead. He had been in poor health for several months.

He gained his first political experience as a township reeve in the Sudbury district, vainly sought a Commons seat in the general election of 1945 but won election to the Ontario legislature as Progressive Conservative member for Sudbury in 1948. He was re-elected in 1951.

After successful handling of the mines portfolio, he became lands and forests minister in June, 1952.

Mr. Gemmill was the fourth member of the legislature to die since the start of the 1954 session last February: Gordon MacOdrum, Leeds, William B. Harvey, Nipissing, and J. D. Nault, Russell, died before the session ended April 6. All were Progressive Conservatives.

Surviving Mr. Gemmill, besides his widow, the former Freda Aberley of Pembroke, Ont., are their two daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Susan Marjorie.

Canadians Spend 375 Million Yearly On Health Care, Survey Indicates

By KEN METHERAL
VANCOUVER, (CP)—The family doctor and a country-wide sickness survey held the spotlight at the Canadian Medical Association convention here Thursday.

Delegates attending the annual gathering heard Canada's deputy minister of health, G. D. W. Cameron, disclose results of a survey showing Canadians spent about \$375,000,000 annually on health care.

Delegates took a break from the exhausting round of convention activity Thursday night by going on a twilight cruise.

The convention winds up today with delivery of 12 technical papers and a discussion of medicine in the armed forces.

Dr. Cameron called the Canadian sickness survey conducted in 1950-51 "most complete information on what medical practice in this country is achieving."

Information collected will allow analyses of some 92 diseases and condition by the Dominion bureau of statistics, he continued. However preliminary analysis showed "the common cold and influenza represented 45 per cent of the total of all conditions."

The deputy minister said the survey showed "striking" regional variations in family health expenditures and in the ratio of doctors' calls to home, office and hospital.

"British Columbia families spent an average of \$100 each for all health items," he said. "Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies and the Maritimes spent successively smaller amounts. Quebec families reported the highest per family expenditures for both prescribed and non-prescribed drugs."

The survey found little variation across the country in the average of 2,200 home and office calls provided per physician.

But in Quebec 45 per cent of the calls were made to the home compared to 18 per cent in British Columbia. Home calls in the Maritimes totalled 31 per cent to only 16 per cent on the Prairies.

Mr. Cameron said the lower ratio of non-hospital calls in western Canada "may be due in part to the more favorable bed ratios and the high proportion of the population covered for some type of hospital insurance."

Highlight of a ceremony marking inauguration of a College of General Practice was presentation of a unique gavel to the College's first president, Dr. Murray Stalker of Ormstown, Que. The gavel is reputed to be made from wood taken from the tree under which Hippocrates, founder of medicine, held his classes. It was presented to Dr. Stalker by Dr. T. Clarence

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Routley, CMA president-elect and consultant general of the World Medical Association. The college is designed to aid general practitioners in keeping abreast of rapid developments in the medical field. Headquarters will be in Toronto.

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CAVENDISH when the members of Sterling W. I. will be guests. The program consisted of a vegetable contest by Mrs. John Burgoyne and bingo. Lunch was then served by the hostess and the committee in charge.

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