

Mr. MERRITT: The temporary assistance under that vote is up seven times over last year, and there is an item of \$21,000 for publicity and information. Would the minister explain those two items?

Mr. CLAXTON: The item for temporary assistance is up \$30,000. It involves two medical specialists at \$5,100, or \$10,200; one medical officer, grade 4, \$3,540; two supervising nurses, one at \$1,830 and one at \$1,740, or \$3,570; chemist, \$2,820; and nine other employees, to bring the total to \$36,135. That staff is largely staff which has been paid for out of the war appropriation, and it is made up as I have said. With regard to the item for publicity and information, there was an expenditure of \$26.01 in preparing six posters which are partly prepared; and also on a booklet on carbon monoxide, \$40. The estimate of \$21,000 for 1946-47 would cover the completion of the posters, \$16,000, and booklets, \$5,000, on lead poisoning, dermatitis, manganese poisoning, chromium poisoning, care in the use of materials like chlorine, formaldehyde, et cetera. I should add that there is a monthly bulletin issued by this division, but it entails no expense except mimeographing and mailing.

Mr. MERRITT: The item is up even though war industries have largely been discontinued, I take it, and also even though on December 15 last, in the discussion on his estimates, reported in *Hansard*, page 3597, the minister said when discussing this item:

To a great extent the industrial hygiene division of the department has to do with the improvement of standards of health in war industries, in consequence of actual contractual obligations they incurred with the federal government to do such work.

Further down:

We hope that in consequence of this work, the work will be continued under provincial auspices. It is our desire to keep a small division operating, to cooperate with the provinces, but not nearly to the same extent as was done during the war.

Also during his remarks the minister said that in certain cases, particularly in British Columbia, the staff of the department had already been transferred to the provinces. It would seem that there must have been a change of policy between last December and now, because this department is not being handed over to the provinces. Is that the case?

Mr. CLAXTON: What I said when the matter was up last session about the change-over with regard to British Columbia was correct. But the actual requests for assistance made on the department with regard to carbon

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monoxide tests, and the investigation of a number of things which I can hardly pronounce, have increased, and the work of the department has been carried on on about the same basis as before.

Mr. HAZEN: From whom do requests come for this work?

Mr. CLAXTON: From various agencies of the federal government, from the provincial governments and from industry itself.

Mr. MacINNIS: I am sorry that I was not in the chamber during the whole of the discussion of this item. But I do not think we should criticize the department for having a substantial amount for industrial hygiene, because it is an important matter. I am not sure just how much study has been made of industrial hygiene and what is done in our various plants to protect the health of the workers. I was greatly amazed some little while ago, in reading an important publication by a pioneer woman doctor in the United States who had done a lot of work in this field, to find that most of the European industrial countries, particularly Great Britain, France and Germany, before the war, were far ahead of the United States and Canada in the conditions provided and the safeguards they had put in effect. Before we criticize the government's programme or urge a smaller item, we should be fairly sure that what the provinces are doing is sufficient to meet the requirements of industrial life.

Mr. WINTERS: Just before this item is passed, I wish to say that I entirely agree with what the hon. member for Vancouver East has just said. I have had a small amount of experience in this field, and I know it is the most difficult thing in the world to lay down a programme on a national basis when each province has a different set of standards of industrial hygiene. For example, there is no standard laid down with regard to disposal of carbon monoxide fumes in motor transport garages, or to deal with disposal of sawdust and so on. If you try to find any information on standards with respect to washroom facilities, for instance, there is nothing in Canada that I know of that covers the whole field. You have to turn to standards set up on an arbitrary basis by a New York architectural association or similar institution. I realize that this is a function of the provinces, but I can think of no better programme in which the federal government could take part, with a view to coordinating the effort on the part of the provinces as a whole. This seems to me to