

we are spending \$360,000 for cadet training, yet we have to cut out a vote of \$100,000 to help fight venereal disease. Instead of making a speech, as I intended to do, I will put on record a short editorial, from Toronto Saturday Night, printed in its issue of May 7, 1932. It is headed Penny Wise, Pound Foolish, and reads:

It is to be feared that the federal government is pursuing a penny wise pound foolish policy with regard to expenditures in connection with public health. In its endeavours to effect small economies it is endangering the work for preventive medicine in this country, which every physician who is not an antediluvian shellback knows is the most profitable expenditure any country could make. Last year the annual grant of \$20,000 for educational work by the Canadian Social Hygiene Council was dropped from the estimates and has not been reinstated this year. In addition it appears that the grants to provinces for administrative work in preventive medicine have vanished.

These grants were established in 1919 when the whole country was alarmed by the increase of venereal disease as a consequence of the war. The economic benefits of the work then instituted by the social hygiene council are demonstrated by two citations which can be paralleled all over Canada. In 1918, 12.8 per cent of all patients in Toronto General Hospital gave a positive Wasserman reaction showing the presence of syphilis. In 1929 this had decreased to 3.7 per cent. In the Toronto hospital for sick children, an incidence of five per cent, has been reduced to one per cent. So remarkable have been the beneficial results of a program originally confined to venereal disease that it has been enlarged to include toxoid immunization against diphtheria, pasteurization of milk (in centres still backward in that field), periodic health examination, mothercraft,—all calculated to save Canada millions of dollars in the future. Preventive medicine reverses the favourite and traditional policy of governments everywhere, that of locking the stable door after the horse is stolen. Conditions such as we are now suffering always increase the public danger from communicable disease. It will be a national calamity if the government permits the machinery created by the social hygiene council to fall to pieces for lack of support.

I put that on record to show what public opinion in Canada is with regard to this question. I think it is very short-sighted on the part of any government to be penny wise and pound foolish in spending money on the care of public health.

Item agreed to.

Grant to executive committee of the World's Grain Congress, \$150,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Would the minister please explain the vote? Has there been any report from that congress?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The sum of \$150,000 was the amount decided upon by the executive

of the World's Grain Congress as being the amount necessary to complete the world's grain exhibition.

Mr. GARDINER: Does this refer to the grain exhibition at Regina?

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: What is being done this year? Is the exhibition to be held?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Next year.

Mr. GARDINER: In view of the fact that the grain exhibition will not be held this year, why the necessity for the vote?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): This is a vote to carry on until the time of the exhibition next year.

Item agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS

Harbours and Rivers

Under contract—

St. John—channel improvements, \$350,000.

Toronto—harbours improvements, \$168,000.

Upper St. Lawrence river—channel improvements, \$45,000.

Burlington channel—improvements, \$50,000.

Not under contract—

Fort William and Port Arthur harbours, \$21,000.—Total, \$634,000.

Mr. REID: I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a condition existing on the Fraser river. As the condition is very serious I feel that I must take up the time of the committee, so that the minister may have the facts before him.

The port of New Westminster has been gradually developing. Last year 297 large ocean going vessels, with a net registered tonnage of almost 1,000,000 tons left the port. From that port there is shipped a considerable volume of exported goods, the lumber alone being to the extent of about 188,000,000 board feet. There was also shipped 105,039 tons of bar metal, lead and zinc, and 63,125 boxes of apples. Hon. members may be interested to know that 120,564 cases of liquor, and 23,425 cases of canned salmon left the port. The business of the port has grown considerably, and in the past ten years there has been an increase from 55 to 297 ocean going vessels.

When the estimates were under consideration last year I drew the attention of the minister to the necessity of keeping the river dredged. He said that owing to economy the dredging activities had been curtailed. Last year dredging was discontinued in the river, but as a result of my appeal to the minister by telegram it was resumed. I should