

no provision having been made for the training and paying of veterinary doctors to look after the inspection of cows for tuberculosis or for Bangs disease, or for the inspection of meat in the rural areas. We do have on federal pay a number of graduates from veterinary colleges, but they are paid such scandalously low wages that there is no incentive to encourage young men from the high schools to go to a veterinary college. If a young graduate from a veterinary college wants to set up in private practice his only hope is to go to Montreal, Winnipeg or Vancouver and open a pet hospital. Is it not a serious reflection on our civilization when we train young men to look after canaries, kittens and pups and leave large sections of Canada in such a condition that it is impossible to have cows tested for tuberculosis? We see children admitted to sanatoria because it has been their misfortune to drink milk from tuberculosis infected cows. The federal government says that this is a matter for the provincial government and the provincial government says in turn that, while the health of animals is in their jurisdiction, they have not the resources to train or to pay graduates in veterinary science to go and supervise properly the health of animals and test cows for tuberculosis.

This brief points out there are a number of diseases such as swine erysipelas and Bangs disease, found among animals and easily communicated to human beings. It also points out that there are large areas throughout Canada where veterinary medicine is a forgotten science. Since the horse and buggy are disappearing it seems to be assumed that we no longer require anyone to go through veterinary college to inspect meat or to test animals for contagious diseases. I submit that the contribution made to this important subject by the federation of agriculture, by the Canadian Congress of Labour and the state hospital and medical league in Canada should be carefully considered by the government and by members of this house.

Of course we are supporting the legislation. We are glad to have something rather than nothing, but we hope that the federal government will give much more courageous leadership in bringing this important question of health before the different provincial governments and will refrain from passing the buck to the provinces or municipalities. Through the kindness of the Minister of Pensions and National Health I sat in at a conference when ministers and deputy ministers of public health from various provinces were here. It was evident from the discussions that all the provinces are most anxious to cooperate with the federal government as soon as possible;

[Mr. Nicholson.]

but most of the provinces are in this position, that many of their sources of revenue have been taken over by the federal government and they cannot see their way clear to launch the type of programme which is necessary at this stage of our history. Unless the federal government gives leadership and an assurance to the provinces that ample funds will be available, we shall find ourselves, when the war is over, with the men and women in the armed services coming back to civilian life with a poorly planned programme ahead and with very poor medical, hospital and dental services available for them.

Mr. J. J. McCANN (Renfrew South): I wish to make a very few brief observations with reference to this bill which has to do with the setting up of a department, to be called the Department of National Health and Welfare, for the purpose of looking after the health, social security and welfare of the people of the country. I am glad that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in introducing the bill has seen fit to retain in it the name "national health." It was at first proposed that it should be a department of social welfare. The term "national health," to the medical fraternity at least, means a great deal, because a fight was waged in this country, starting back in 1919, brought about by conditions which obtained more particularly after the last war with reference to venereal disease, to set up a department of national health. Many countries throughout the world have departments of national health. There is one in Great Britain, one in Australia and one in New Zealand. There is a department having to do with national health in the United States and in almost every democratic country in the world there is a department of national health and in some a department of national health and security. So that it is with some satisfaction that we see that the name has been retained and that the principle which has been fought for by the medical profession throughout Canada has been vindicated.

I am not sure that this department is going to be all that we would desire. I am very sorry that it appears to be what will be the remnants of the present Department of Pensions and National Health when the matter of veterans' affairs is taken away and put into a department entirely its own. Under the bill which was put through lately, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will have to do entirely with the treatment of returned men. I submit that, in these times particularly, when we have a shortage of hospital accommodation and of personnel, both of trained medical help and of nursing services, it would be much better if all the medical services which come