

Mr. WINTERS: There is a great lack of uniformity in Canada in the field of industrial hygiene. Is the federal government co-ordinating precautions taken, for instance, against monoxide gas in industrial plants? It seems to me that industrial hygiene is a field for closer coordination with the provinces.

Mr. CLAXTON: We shall come to that item in a moment. In answer to the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, who asked why a film on pure milk should come under this division, it must come under either this or some other division in the department, and this seems to be as appropriate as any other. The officers of the division of public health engineering cooperate closely with the officers in the provincial departments, and it is by reason of that association that this particular function is inserted here. The federal government does not have the enforcement of the law regarding pure milk, but we do cooperate with the provinces at their request in providing information and material that would be beyond the scope of any province to provide.

Mr. MERRITT: Where is it contemplated to show that film?

Mr. CLAXTON: It would be shown as a short at commercial theatres and be shown in the sixteen millimeter size on some of the rural film circuits, at farmers' meetings, meetings of women's institutes, meetings of municipal associations, and of voluntary organizations of all kinds. The commercial distribution of films has an estimated potential audience of one and a quarter million a week, and the distribution of films on a non-commercial basis is estimated to have a potential total of two hundred thousand.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

210. Treatment of sick mariners, \$332,065.

Mr. FLEMING: I understand that the fees paid by vessels for this service approximate \$200,000 a year, while the item is for \$330,000. The scale of fees paid by the vessels was established a long time ago. They existed under part V of the Canada Shipping Act, which goes back to confederation days. Has any thought been given to an upward adjustment of the scale of fees so that they would be equal to the cost of the service provided to mariners on ships entering Canadian ports?

Mr. CLAXTON: The amount collected from the ship owners is based on the tonnage of the vessel. It varies from year to year with the number of ships arriving and with the size of the crews. The expenditures also

vary with the incidence of sickness. Over the years I think I can say that the revenue compares favourably with the expenditures.

Mr. MacNICOL: The Navy League of Canada has for years been performing an efficient and useful service in providing medical assistance for sailors, so many of whom are indigents. I am in favour of this vote. I was under the impression that part of this money was used to take care of the medical necessities of indigent sailors. Many of them have no money to pay for medical services. If they all have to pay for services, disease will increase instead of diminish.

Mr. HAZEN: Is there any place where the amounts which are paid by the different shipping companies are shown?

Mr. CLAXTON: The public accounts.

Mr. HAZEN: As to the item of professional and special services, what would come under the heading of "special services"?

Mr. CLAXTON: Sick mariners are treated and hospitalized at departmental hospitals where there are departmental hospitals adequate to take care of them, but that is only the case in a very limited number of localities. To a large degree sick mariners requiring hospitalization are hospitalized in general hospitals, to which the department pays a per diem rate. Similarly with regard to professional services, where the department has a doctor of its own, as it has in Halifax, Saint John, Sydney, Quebec, Montreal, Vancouver, and Victoria, he does the work. But where there is too much work to be done by the departmental doctor, or where there is no departmental doctor, an outside doctor is hired on a fee basis and he performs the work.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

211. Industrial hygiene, \$103,151.

Mr. CLAXTON: This is where I should reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg. This division has cooperated closely with the provinces and with war industry during the war to secure the enforcement of the conditions in the munitions contracts regarding working conditions. It has succeeded in ensuring a greater degree of standardization of practice than before. Primarily this matter does fall, of course, within the jurisdiction of the provinces, and the department through this division has worked with the provinces and also with those holding contracts with the federal government. Here again there is a continuance of expenditure from the war appropriation to the ordinary peace-time vote.