

to make grants to private institutions. Personally I should like to see the time come when the dominion government would assume full responsibility. But as matters now stand, the burden of educational work for public health must be carried on by a private agency such as this.

I do think it is very strange that if the government wishes to avoid its own responsibility it should be permitted to do so by simply turning over the pitifully small sum of \$5,000, when a similar amount is voted by the same department for one night's entertainment here in Canada of what is essentially a foreign association. Or, using another comparison, the amount is equivalent to the yearly annuity as voted last night to the minister plenipotentiary in France.

The amount is too small. I believe this is one instance where the great masses of the Canadian people would support the government in a liberal grant. Then, we may consider item 559, where \$50,000 is given to combat venereal disease. That may seem a substantial grant, but I notice according to yesterday's newspaper that the United States federal government voted \$15,000,000 for federal aid in eradicating venereal disease. While our population is only one-tenth as great, why could we not give one-tenth the sum given in the United States, instead of a miserable \$50,000?

It seems to me that we fail to keep our sense of proportion in these matters. To most of us \$50,000 would seem a fairly large sum; but we can vote millions on occasions. We have no hesitation in voting large sums of money for the purpose of making preparations for war, but in connection with a dread disease which was greatly increased as an aftermath of the war we find it very difficult to get the government to do very much.

The other evening the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Massey) gave an interesting description of conditions existing in Denmark, showing how in that country great care is taken of the health of cows and hogs. In fact even in Canada we do something for our animals.

Mr. SPENCE: In a large way, too.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes; the amounts we have been passing in the last few weeks would make large totals. I say if we can vote moneys for the health of cows, hogs and horses, why can we not do the same for human beings? I cannot understand the continuation of such an anomalous situation.

I shall not supplement to any extent the figures given by the hon. member for St. Boniface.

Mr. WOOD: Does not the health of cows have some relation to the health of human beings in Canada?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am sympathetic towards giving moneys for the health of cows, and I have no doubt that if the cows are kept in good health it may help to keep human beings that way. But we are giving a large amount of money to promote the health of animals and fail to give anything like a corresponding amount to combat directly human diseases. That is my point. These ought we to have done and not to have left the others undone—if you like to put it that way.

I believe it was the Health League of Canada which published figures showing that two per cent of our population, or 200,000 persons, are constantly ill, and at an annual cost of about \$300,000,000. I submit that small amounts such as \$50,000 for serums to combat venereal disease, or \$5,000 for educational work such as is carried out by the Health League of Canada, are altogether too small, and should be materially increased.

Very frequently when matters of this kind are raised we are faced with the constitution, but I do not think in the present instance anybody has suggested that to deal with these matters is beyond the power of the dominion government. So far as I know the constitutional question has not yet been raised. I see the Minister of Finance looking at me; I do hope he will not attempt to raise any question of that kind.

Mr. DUNNING: Why pick on me?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Well, the Minister of Finance might be thought to be holding down costs. I find when there is any disinclination to go farther in accepting greater responsibilities, almost invariably the British North America Act is trotted out. In the present instance however I believe that has not been done.

I believe the evidence already given before the Rowell commission, as published in the press—if I may be permitted to refer to it—amply demonstrates that to-day it is the dominion government which has the financial resources, and that many of the provinces are in a rather bad way. If we are to do this work on an extensive scale I believe we should look to the dominion government to assume a very considerable proportion of the cost, and to give a lead to the provinces.

Mr. McIVOR: I should like to say only a few brief words in support of the vote. My only criticism is that not enough money is being voted; the cause is worthy of a far