

The Budget—Mr. Balcom

federal government has recognized the special needs of the maritime provinces, and I would like to add that the method by which these federal payments are made will leave the provinces entirely free to use the funds as they see fit.

In addition, of course, the federal government is continuing to pay coal subventions to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at the same level as last year, despite the lessening of United States competition in coal. Similarly, feed grain freight assistance is to be continued, and this support works more to the advantage of the Atlantic provinces than to other provinces in terms of freight subsidy per ton of the grain shipped from the west.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate enough to be selected by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and by our own minister in Nova Scotia to join the delegation attending the ninth world health organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Canada was well represented at this meeting by the most zealous of delegates. The delegation was happily headed by Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, deputy minister of national health and welfare, who was a splendid choice for he is well-versed in this work. Dr. Cameron is a tireless, conscientious worker who gives inspiration to his colleagues. Alternate delegates attending were Dr. Burns Roth, deputy minister of public health of the province of Saskatchewan, who possesses exceptional ability and has a fine background in health work, and Hector Allard, the permanent representative to the European office of the United Nations in Geneva.

Those who accompanied us as advisers and counsellors were Dr. Emil Blain of Montreal, president of the French association of medicine in Canada and an outstanding physician with a national reputation; Miss Dorothy M. Percy, R.N., chief consultant in nursing, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, who gives all her strength, knowledge and ability in service to her country, and Mr. Melvin G. Clark, of the Department of Finance, a member of Canada's permanent mission to the European office of the United Nations in Geneva. Mr. Clark has vision, and through his diplomacy and that of our chief all the major difficulties which are bound to arise when one is dealing with the representatives of over 80 nations were smoothed out to the satisfaction of everyone.

It is encouraging and reassuring to me, sir, to realize that the government of Canada has such employees as Dr. Don Cameron, Miss Percy, Mr. Allard and Mr. Melvin Clark. The government of Saskatchewan must appreciate the splendid work of Dr. F. Burns Roth.

Over 80 countries were represented at this meeting, and your Canadian delegation played

an active part in the deliberations. Recognition was given to Canada by the general assembly appointing Dr. Cameron to the executive of the world health organization. The fine work being done by the WHO knows no boundaries. Some 400 million people, one-sixteenth of the world's population, have already benefited from modern methods of controlling malaria, tuberculosis, yaws, and other death-dealing diseases. Since the start of mass campaigns against yaws and other treponematoses, 50 million people have been treated, and through modern methods and efficiency the cost per treatment has been brought down to 75 cents, and 10 cents per examination.

Before making any further remarks may I commend the Minister of Agriculture and, of course, in association with him the Minister of Transport, for the prompt action taken in implementing the federal grain freight system, which practically offsets the cost of the 1956 freight rate boosts to users of feed grain. A short delay in implementation might have cost the farmers of the maritime provinces well over \$400,000, and those of Nova Scotia in particular over \$170,000.

I would like to commend the maritime transportation commission for their effective action in presenting a brief to the minister outlining the need for quick action in this case. I would also like to commend the Minister of National Health and Welfare and offer him our sincere thanks for his action in bringing into the house legislation to provide a national health insurance scheme for the people of Canada. While Nova Scotia has not entered into the scheme yet, I feel sure that in its wisdom the provincial government will soon elect to be a party to this very worth-while plan.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important sections in the preliminary report of the Gordon commission deals with transportation in the Atlantic provinces. The report has two important suggestions to make in this field. One is for a re-examination of the effect of the Maritime Freight Rates Act. As I made a statement about that in the early days of this session and referred to it earlier tonight I will not deal with it now. A scheme which is broader in scope and which in fact embraces the above is a recommendation for an early inquiry into the whole transportation system. The budget introduced by the Minister of Finance assures us that action is forthcoming. This will, I presume, involve all the different means of transportation, and will therefore touch the jurisdiction of the provinces as well as that of the federal government.