

All the bureaucracy of the present Department of Pensions and National Health is to be embodied in the new Department of National Health and Welfare. If I am dissatisfied with the bureaucracy of the Department of Pensions and National Health, no matter what may be said in their defence, because people are suffering on account of their incompetency; if I complain I shall be told that I am a coward because I attack people who are not here to defend themselves. The fact is that I shall have to go before bureaucrats who will be transferred from the present department to the new one. The name may be different, but it will be the same. Is it possible to think of that? It is most unfortunate.

It may be said that I do not want the Canadian people well looked after, that I do not want them to receive medical care, that I am not sincere, that I use extravagant language, that by opposing this I am against progress. I may be told all that, but I have deep-rooted convictions. During his western tour of 1940 or 1942, I do not know which, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) said that he regretted that he could not come in contact with the people the same as do private members. It is because I, like other private members, come in contact with the soldiers and the sick people that I express myself as freely as I do.

One main objection is that we do not know what is meant by the bill. The so-called objects of the bill are not defined. My next complaint against the bill is that it is in conflict with the constitution of this country. It goes farther than any other bill has gone to bind provincial executives to dominion boards, to make them subject to dominion legislation. They are to be subject not only to dominion legislation, but to the orders which may be issued by this bureaucracy that we have now and that we shall always have in the future if a check is not put on them.

Let us come to section 5 which reads:

The duties, powers and functions of the minister . . .

There is a lot of redundant language there which means nothing; it is just legal phraseology.

. . . shall extend to and include all matters relating to the promotion or preservation of the health, social security and social welfare of the people of Canada over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction, and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, particularly the following matters:

(a) the administration of such acts of the parliament of Canada and of orders or regulations of the government of Canada as are not by law assigned to any other department of the government of Canada or any minister thereof relating in any way to the health, social security and welfare of the people of Canada.

I object again. Why say "orders or regulations not by law assigned to any other department of the government of Canada"? If all orders concerning health are to be under the new Department of National Health and Welfare, is it not possible to provide that any matter relating to health, if we are to have a department of health, shall be placed under the minister of health? It ought to be easy to draft the legislation accordingly.

Take, next, "investigation and research into public health and welfare"—I am referring to paragraph (b) of section 5. I suggested to the government years ago that they should appoint Sir Frederick Banting as president of the national research council. He was appointed to one of the committees of the national research council after that suggestion was made. But that was not the same thing. The loss of Sir Frederick Banting is still regretted because of the important discovery he made, which has meant so much for the benefit of mankind. But there is no use in making any constructive suggestions. When a suggestion is made it is accepted in so far as the bureaucracy accept it, in so far as it does not affect the privilege and power of the bureaucracy; otherwise it is rejected.

The Department of Mines and Resources will be affected by the bill, as will be seen by reference to paragraph (c) which has to do with "the inspection and medical care of immigrants and seamen, and the administration of marine hospitals, and such other hospitals of the government of Canada as may be committed to its administration by order of the governor in council." What about the admission of immigrants? Will immigrants be admitted under the present immigration law, which is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar), at the present time, and then looked after and be examined by another department? The immigration branch should be considered as a complete entity, and immigrants cannot be admitted into this country when their physical condition is not up to the standard established by law. How is it then that they will come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Mines and Resources, and afterwards the Minister of National Health and Welfare will decide whether or not they are physically fit to get into the country? There is no reason for that. That clause is absurd except—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): There is no change from the present.

Mr. POULIOT: The whole care of immigrants should be put under one minister, either the minister of health or the minister of immigration. Otherwise the two will play ball with every immigrant.