

Supply—Health and Welfare

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): It is part of a long-term program of expanding and improving the arsenals facilities in the province of Quebec.

Item agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: That completes the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, with the unanimous consent of the committee I would like to revert to item 544 as found on page 81 of the blue book under the title "Loans, Investments and Advances". This morning when the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce were being discussed, I undertook to reduce this item by \$200,000 and the suggestion was made that the item be dropped entirely. Since this appeared to have the same effect, I agreed to have the item dropped.

Subsequently, by unanimous consent of the committee, the item was withdrawn. I should like to have the wording of the item reinstated and the amount of money reduced to \$1.

By way of explanation, I would point out that on page 529, in providing for the Canadian international trade fair, hon. members will observe that whereas last year an amount of \$876,600 was requested only \$275,000 was requested this year. It is necessary to use the revenue from the 1955 trade fair to pay for the 1955 trade fair. Hence the wording as recorded on page 81 is required as the statutory authority for this purpose.

I therefore recommend that, with unanimous consent of the committee, item No. 544 be reinstated and the amount of money reduced from \$200,000 to \$1.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the request of the minister that item 544 be reinstated and reduced to \$1 agreed to?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Loans, investments and advances—

544. To authorize, in the current and subsequent fiscal years, a special operating account in the consolidated revenue fund to which shall be charged expenditures incurred in respect of the Canadian international trade fair and to which shall be credited all monies received in connection with the operations of the fair, the excess of the amounts charged over the amounts credited to the account at any time not to exceed, \$1.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

245. Departmental administration, \$1,246,846.

The Deputy Chairman: This item may be found on page 45 of the main estimates.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Chairman, I intend at this time to confine my remarks on this administration item to the work of the world health

organization, as there is no item on the list which seems particularly suited to a discussion of this matter. Since my return from a meeting of the assembly I have been asked frequently by members of this house for information regarding this great world organization, and I was surprised that generally speaking so little was known about an organization which is doing such outstanding work in the field of world health in combating disease. The eighth assembly of the world health organization met this year in Mexico City, and I was honoured by being appointed by the Canadian government to the Canadian delegation attending the assembly.

I shall attempt to give a short history of the origin of the world health organization. In August, 1946, Canada became the third nation to ratify the constitution. The other nations to ratify the constitution earlier than Canada were China and the United Kingdom. Their representatives were authorized to accept with parliamentary approval. In the following year, by April 7, 1948, the required number of ratifications were secured and the world health organization became a reality. The first world health assembly convened in Geneva.

Some 26 nations had ratified the constitution by 1948, and now the membership has grown to 84 countries. It is unfortunate that China and nine states in eastern Europe have ceased to participate in this great work, but in the regions of North America and South America 21 countries are members. On August 6, 1946, the Canadian parliament approved the constitution, which was signed at New York on July 22, 1946. The resolution of approval was introduced by the then prime minister, and I had the pleasure on behalf of the official opposition of stating the approval of our party. I believed at that time, as I do now—after attending the assembly in Mexico City I am more than ever of the same feeling—that this was a forward step we were taking toward a great ideal whereby we could obtain the good will and confidence of other nations whose standards of health were not as high as those in this country, and who had to cope with problems peculiar to their own areas or geographical positions.

I have looked back and reread with satisfaction parts of the speech I made at that time, nine years ago. After having had the opportunity of attending one of these great assemblies I am even more convinced that the words I used at that time were fitting. I am going to quote from page 4352 of *Hansard* of August 6, 1946, the words I uttered when this resolution was before the