

The grants voted on that occasion were to be made available for the following purposes:

1. General public health services.
2. Tuberculosis control.
3. Mental health care.
4. Venereal disease control.
5. Grants to crippled children.
6. Professional training in public health matters.
7. Public health research.
8. Cancer control.
9. Grants for the construction of hospitals.

You are all aware of the public health programme which has been launched in this country; however, the public at large so frequently enquires what the Government is doing in order to improve the health of the Canadian people that I seize this opportunity to remind them of the benefits which they enjoy without realizing it.

Grants to provinces for health purposes exceed 31 million dollars per year. Already, although two years have not yet elapsed since the programme has been put into practice, progress is apparent. The fight against tuberculosis and venereal diseases, in particular, show gratifying results.

In 1948, there was a shortage of 60,000 hospital beds. By the end of 1949 the accommodation had been increased by 20,000 additional beds and it is hoped that the shortage will have been remedied by the end of 1951.

Canada spends per capita at present much more than the United States for practically all our health services. For instance, our grants for the construction of hospitals are twice as large; for tuberculosis control, five times as large, for the control of cancer, fourteen times as large and for the care of mental diseases, sixteen times as large.

All the nations of the world have acclaimed our comprehensive health programme. The entry of the federal government in the field of public health, so soon after the adoption of its various social legislations such as family allowances, pensions for the aged and the blind, unemployment insurance, and allowances for veterans' rehabilitation, is the latest step taken by our government in order to ensure to each citizen the best opportunities for developing his personal skills and enjoy social security. The Minister of Health and Welfare, Honourable Paul Martin, was quite

justified when he said: "Owing to this close co-operation between the Dominion and the provincial authorities in all matters of public health and thanks also to these additional financial means which will enable us to control diseases on a united front, we may, in all confidence, expect to accomplish continued progress in all our health services. The primitive health methods followed by Canada in the past will now be replaced by an enlightened public health programme in order that we may reach our ultimate goal: radiant health for all our Canadian citizens."

(Text):

Honourable senators, it is not my intention to repeat in English the remarks which I have made in the language of my Acadian ancestors. I do, however, wish to extend to the mover of the address (Hon. Mr. Golding) my sincere congratulations on the excellent way in which he acquitted himself of his task.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Veniot:** I admire the ease and grace with which the honourable senator, who is no newcomer to parliamentary circles, discusses questions of state of such great importance as those which he covered today.

I should like now to devote some remarks to a question which is of great importance to all Canadian citizens who dwell along the Atlantic coast, namely, the fishing industry.

During the present session amendments will be proposed to the Fisheries Prices Support Act to provide continuing support to the primary industry of the fisheries. There will also be an increase in the estimates of the Department of Fisheries, to take care of the proposed expansion of the department's activities. When the estimates for the Department of Fisheries were up before the other house in December last, the Honourable Mr. Mayhew, the Minister, made a statement concerning future developments of his department which elicited congratulations and praise from members of all parties in that house. In my estimation it was the most comprehensive, the most far-reaching and the most encouraging pronouncement ever made by a Minister of Fisheries. I wish to associate myself with the many thousands of Canadians who rejoice at the news that such important forward steps are to be taken by the department to expand its activities, and I extend to the minister my heartiest congratulations.

Several parts of the minister's statement seem to dovetail perfectly with thoughts