

promoting a specific scheme for an annual membership, including periodic health examination. A national committee on milk pasteurization has been appointed. After all the only safe milk is pasteurized milk. The only way to get ahead of undulant fever and tuberculosis and be sure they are stamped out is by positively pasteurizing the milk. It does not hurt the milk; pasteurized milk is just as sweet and just as wholesome as unpasteurized. I am not holding any brief for the creameries which distribute milk but as a medical man I believe very definitely that if we seek the best interests and the preservation of the health of our growing children we should insist on pasteurized milk and see that no other kind comes into our homes.

A parliamentary committee on health, consisting of thirty members of the Senate and House of Commons, has been organized by the league. And there are many other activities.

There is probably nothing more important to the people of Canada than their health. I am not going back over the old ground; I have discussed it here a number of times. The most important and vital thing to Canadians is good health. I have some figures here. I find in the vital statistics report for 1935, table No. 29, that there were 392 new admissions for general paralysis of the insane, which is one form of syphilitic insanity. A letter from the British Columbia health department estimates that the average cost to that province of one of these cases is \$3,000 a year. This means that if 392 new cases are admitted to mental institutions in Canada yearly, and if these cases cost \$3,000 each, the syphilitic insane cost this country \$1,176,000 a year. In a letter from the province of Ontario I find that in the year ended March 31, 1936, of a total of 14,142 patients in residence, 542 were cases of general paralysis of the insane, and 17 of cerebro-spinal syphilis, 449 cases in all. If these represent an average daily cost of only \$1, which is absurdly low, the cost of both of these diseases in Ontario comes to \$450 a day or \$164,250 a year. For the whole dominion it would be roughly three times that, or \$492,750.

I think I need not say much more. Consideration of these facts leads to but one conclusion. It is not a thing this country can afford to play with. What we want in Canada is a reestablishment of this whole health program which has been slighted and pushed to one side. If we do not get leadership from the federal department of health, what are we to expect from the provinces?

[Mr. Howden.]

This is the central authority, the authority which has the power to institute any regulations.

Mr. McIVOR: And the money.

Mr. HOWDEN: And they have the money; I said the power. I appeal to the minister and to the government and to the Canadian people to see to it that these matters are not neglected, but that we have a live and active health department in Canada which will oversee and assist the excellent work of the provinces. I recently received a letter from the Superior of the St. Boniface hospital, which is in the city of St. Boniface, in greater Winnipeg, and is of equal extent and excellence to the Winnipeg General hospital. It long since received a first class certificate from the American College of Surgeons. When the grant was cut so that the provincial board of health had to contract its activities in regard to this venereal disease question an arrangement was made with St. Boniface hospital to carry on the work. The communication I received from the Superior stated that it is becoming necessary to erect another edifice, partly to accommodate this branch of medicine so as to have it isolated from the hospital at large; and this wing will cost \$140,000. Without taking further time I commend this matter to the careful consideration of the Minister of Pensions and National Health, to take such action as seems good to him.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: My speech on this subject I think might be reduced to one word. As the committee has listened to the speech of the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden) I think a number of hon. members have wanted simply to say "ditto." I do not believe any good purpose would be served in attempting to cover the ground once more. I note that under item 246 there is a grant of \$5,000 to the Health League of Canada, while under item 560 there is a grant to the French Language Medical Association of North America of \$5,000. I presume a large portion of the latter vote would be spent in a jamboree, and following the night there might be "the morning after." That would be the end of the \$5,000. In contrast with that for the \$5,000 given to the Health League of Canada a service is rendered extending through 365 days of the year.

It is almost an insult for the dominion parliament to give a pitifully small amount like this for such a purpose. It may be said that the Health League of Canada is a private institution, and I can understand it might be the policy of the government not