

Health Insurance

to actively and favourably consider the making at an early date of substantial and adequate deficiency payments. I express the hope that an announcement in this regard will be made very soon.

As to the second announcement the minister has made, I know it will be welcomed by grain producers. I am sure it will be welcome news in the trade that Mr. W. C. McNamara has now been appointed chairman of the Canadian wheat board. I think he and his associates will continue in the future, as they have in the past, to do a good job on behalf of the producers, even though they face very great difficulties.

HEALTH INSURANCENEWFOUNDLAND—ANNOUNCEMENT OF
SIGNING OF AGREEMENT

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a very brief announcement to the house at this time. As hon. members may know, I had the privilege earlier today to join with Hon. Dr. James McGrath, minister of health for Newfoundland, in signing an agreement between the province and the dominion government under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues I can say that we welcome this development as a further step toward the realization of a scheme which will be of benefit to all Canadians.

I might add that it is intended that this agreement shall take effect as of July 1, 1958.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all welcome the information just given to us by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. There will be general satisfaction that the province of Newfoundland has now signed an agreement entitling it to receive benefits if and when the amended hospital insurance act passes the house, as it undoubtedly will. I think I am correct in saying that the agreement with Newfoundland today represents the first agreement signed with the federal government in which a province takes full advantage of the proposal put forward by the federal government a year ago for diagnostic services for both in- and out-patients.

I hope the minister will either confirm or deny this statement. If that is the case I think it represents a very considerable advance, and a change from the agreement signed with Ontario in which that province took advantage of the diagnostic services proposal only with regard to in-patients.

[Mr. Argue.]

Mr. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, the agreements with Ontario and Newfoundland are both entirely within the terms of the act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That was not my question. I said that the agreement with Ontario did not provide diagnostic services for out-patients but only for in-patients, and that the agreement signed today with the province of Newfoundland provides for diagnostic services for both in- and out-patients.

Mr. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I answered that question earlier. Both agreements are entirely within the terms of the act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend has not understood my question.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we in this group welcome the important announcement the minister has made. We feel confident that the provinces generally will sign agreements at an early date. I noticed in the press a few days ago that the province of Quebec was considering a hospitalization program. We express the hope that Quebec and the other provinces will all take advantage of this very important plan. I also express the hope that at an early date the government will announce that the hospitalization plan has been made complete by bringing mental and tubercular patients under it, in keeping with the consistent position of his party over recent years.

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERSMOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. W. Murphy (Lambton West) moved that the first report of the standing committee on mines, forests and waters, presented to the house on June 5, 1958, be now concurred in.

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): Does the hon. member moving this motion propose to give the house any reasons why it should be concurred in? If he has anything to say I would be anxious to hear him. If not, I should like to say something about it.

Mr. Murphy: I rather expected that the hon. member would have referred to this matter when I presented the report last Thursday. I expected, because of an argument in the estimates committee to the effect that committees should not sit while the house is in session, that he would present an argument then.

It has been the practice in the past for committees to get this power, either at the time the committee was set up or after the first meeting when concurrence was moved in the