

the request of the provinces that we should form a central organization in Ottawa to deal with child and maternal welfare, to obtain information to assist the provinces in their researches, and generally to be a sort of clearing-house. Recently, when Manitoba decided to undertake certain work it could not do it alone, and we took the view that Manitoba would be an ideal cross-section of Canada, so that in order to get this information on mortality we thought it would be an excellent opportunity for us to join with the province. They are doing some of the work through their own staff, and we have also some members of our staff there. It is a joint undertaking in consequence of which we expect to have valuable information which we can distribute among other provinces.

Item agreed to.

Epidemiology, \$14,770.

Mr. STIRLING: Here is one of those instances which I am not able to understand under the new system of preparing the estimates. In this one there is an amount, "voted but not utilized," of \$4,000. In the last one I understood the minister to say that there was unexpended something like \$10,000, which does not so appear. In fact, it very seldom does appear, and yet apparently on frequent occasions it has not all been expended.

Mr. POWER: I was not sure myself what that term, "voted but not utilized" meant. I have an explanation, but I would rather have the Minister of Finance explain it.

Mr. DUNNING: This is the first occasion on which the estimates have been presented in the new form, and in adjusting the details of what was last year a bulk vote for a series of services among the various accounts which this year become separate votes, the situation to which my hon. friend refers arises. It will not occur in the future, because in the future we shall be making comparisons between comparable things. I may tell my hon. friend that it took nearly six months' work to get the estimates into this form, which I think hon. members will agree is a tremendous improvement from the standpoint of conveying information as to details. That is the reason for discrepancies of this sort.

Mr. STIRLING: Yes; I modified my language in regard to it, because I think, when we get accustomed to it, this will be a much more intelligible way of presenting the estimates. I notice all the way through that there are far fewer references now than under the old method with regard to money not expended in the previous year.

Mr. POWER: Nearly all these items we have been quoting this afternoon were bulked in one vote in another year, so it is very difficult to make the proper division.

Mr. BARBER: What part of the \$15,400 voted was spent last year?

Mr. POWER: The amount spent was \$3,500; there is \$11,860 unexpended.

Mr. McCANN: What work, if any, has this department done with reference to the outbreak of poliomyelitis in Canada last year? Or is it proposed to make an exhaustive study of that branch of epidemiology?

Mr. POWER: The epidemiologist of the department has approached the Canadian Medical Council asking them to make a study and put the result of their study in book form. When that has been done, with full details, enabling medical men throughout the country more easily to diagnose the disease and setting out the most efficacious form of treatment which can be given in an emergency, it will be printed in pamphlet form; and the department has undertaken to distribute it among all doctors in Canada. So far I think that is about all we have done with that disease.

Mr. McCANN: Is the department doing any research work in this particular line?

Mr. POWER: We are doing field studies in other lines, but not in this.

Item agreed to.

Publicity and health education, \$17,024.

Mr. McCANN: What advance has been made in the setting up of this branch?

Mr. POWER: The civil service commission appointed a man yesterday.

Mr. McCANN: This should be a very important branch of the department of national health, because the publicity given throughout the country to the methods of treatment and the facilities which are available in regard to diagnosis and treatment of disease is an important factor. Last year in the neighbourhood of Quebec city quite a number of children were afflicted with diphtheria. That should not happen; it is absolutely a preventable disease, and it is only a matter of education and of using the facilities we have to make it so that no child should die of diphtheria. I have come to the conclusion that the reason why so many children died of diphtheria in Quebec province and the region of the city of Quebec last year was lack of public education regarding what can be done for that disease.