

Supply—Health and Welfare

families in the world. I refer to the Sassoon interests. Sir Victor Sassoon sent his personal physician, the Count di Valvisone, to British Columbia to investigate the natural health resources. He spent some three months in British Columbia and then returned to see his principal, Sir Victor Sassoon, who was at that time liquidating his multimillion dollar assets in India and Hong Kong and looking for investments.

As a result of that visit by his personal physician, the Count di Valvisone came back to British Columbia—this was about 1942—with a personal cheque signed by Sir Victor Sassoon for \$25,000 and made out to the government of British Columbia to endow a chair at the university of British Columbia for research into the natural health resources of my province and to start training doctors and technicians in the use of natural medicine.

I was there, Mr. Chairman, when the Count di Valvisone stood on the Canadian Pacific dock in Vancouver and presented to the Liberal premier of British Columbia this cheque for \$25,000 as a gift just to get started on the study of our natural health resources. I was there when the premier turned it down; he was not interested, Mr. Chairman. This was one of the greatest disappointments of my life. Not only had we someone interested in starting a chair at the university to study our natural health resources, but someone prepared to come in with millions of dollars for its development.

However, this is all ancient history and I only mention it so you will know this is not something new with me. It is not something that is understood only in the Dominion of Canada. I say if I thought anyone were going to come into Canada, and British Columbia in particular, and use our resources on a quack basis, I would be the first man to clamp down and say no. But I am convinced, Mr. Chairman, and I have seen proof year after year, that Canada could become the health mecca of the world. We require research into our cold springs, our hot springs and our spas. We need direction on the best development in the interests of health, and not as a racket.

I spoke on this last year and I spoke on it early this year. At that time I made only one request. I asked whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare was cognizant of the potentialities of our health-giving resources in Canada, and was he sufficiently cognizant to make recommendations for research and development. I do not ask anything more than that. But I hope the minister who, I understand, is interested in

[Mr. Winch.]

what I have said, and has made some inquiries, will give some indication of his stand at the present time and tell us if something is going to be done in the next year or two, or in the next five years perhaps, in the matter of research and development.

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend may be sure of my deep interest. This matter is now being discussed, as a matter of fact, with the Charles Best institute.

Mr. Winch: I cannot hear the minister.

Mr. Martin: This matter is being discussed with the Charles Best institute in Toronto, and a project is possibly under way. In any event the matter has been referred to the research committee and it is being given further attention.

Mr. Winch: To whom has it been referred?

Mr. Martin: The Charles Best institute in Toronto, one of the great medical centres in the world. It has now for consideration a project involving some of the aspects of what my hon. friend has said. In addition to that I have directed our research committee to consider this matter.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I understand this is one of the items under which the minister suggested we might continue the debate which was instituted by my leader, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart, on the first item of the minister's estimates.

Mr. Martin: Right.

Mr. Barnett: I do not intend to enter into any extended discussion. I heard the minister earlier today say that he did not intend to rise to speak; but I am convinced that even at this late stage in the session, although the minister's flesh may be somewhat weary, his spirit is still with the subject of national health.

Mr. Martin: Very much so.

Mr. Barnett: Personally I make no bones about the views I hold. In my view the discussion of this subject is far more important to the freedom of the Canadian people, in any real sense of the meaning of that word, than the discussion on which the house spent an extended period of time not very long ago.

Mr. Martin: I agree fully with that.

Mr. Barnett: Therefore I felt I would like to rise in support of the remarks made by my leader at the opening of this debate. While he was speaking last night I recalled that shortly before I came to the House of Commons, immediately after I had been elected, I was asked to participate with