

Mr. CLAXTON: When penicillin was developed for use during the war it became at once apparent that there would be a great need of it. The federal government, through the Department of Munitions and Supply, acting as agent for other departments of government, bought for the Connaught laboratories the Knox college building in Toronto, equipped it, and paid the costs of operation of that plant throughout the war. At the Connaught laboratories new types of preparation were worked out and new techniques were developed. I believe it was among the leading establishments in the world.

The federal government also assisted the Ayerst, McKenna and Harrison, Limited, laboratory at Montreal in the construction of a plant for the production of penicillin at that point.

The third source of production in Canada was by commercial interests without government assistance in the Merck laboratories. The processes were all so new that they all did valuable experimental work in connection with the technical production, but the work done at the Connaught laboratories was outstanding and gave leadership, not only in Canada but in other countries.

The part played by the laboratory of hygiene of the Department of National Health and Welfare was to work out standards by which the efficacy of penicillin might be assayed. One of the functions of the department is to work out standards whereby drugs may be tested so that a physician will know that if he gives a dose of a drug, the drug will be of a standard strength to do the job that a drug of that quantity should do. The department carried out extensive investigations on the assay of penicillin, and the laboratory participated in collaborative studies with those arranged through the health section of the league of nations so that an international standard might be worked out. A Canadian standard has been prepared which is distributed to manufacturers, and their product is tested periodically by the department to ensure its efficiency, just the same way as other drugs are. A second low potency standard has been prepared for distribution to hospitals and clinical laboratories for use in controlling penicillin clarity.

Mr. FLEMING: What expenditures have been made to date by the dominion government in connection with penicillin, as regards both research and manufacture? What proportion of this estimate relates to the production of penicillin or to further research on penicillin?

Mr. CLAXTON: It would be quite impossible to segregate what is expended on penicillin, because that is only part of the work carried on by the laboratory. During the year, tens of thousands of assays are made and separate costs are not kept. There is no reason that we can see why they should be. As to the amount spent by the federal government on the production of penicillin, that would more properly come under the estimates of the Department of Reconstruction and Supply in the war appropriations. The Department of National Health and Welfare did not make any expenditure on production.

Mr. FLEMING: That would be the amount spent to acquire buildings?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

207. Immigration medical inspection, \$84,905.

Mr. FLEMING: To what extent has the prospect of increased immigration entered into this item?

Mr. CLAXTON: We are having increased immigration this year in the form of wives and dependents of members of the armed forces, and we have had to send several extra officers overseas to do the work of the department in that connection.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

208. Child and maternal hygiene, \$108,709.

Mr. MERRITT: Could the minister explain the publicity item?

Mr. CLAXTON: The amount sought last year was \$67,000 and the amount expended was \$31,449.15. Of that amount, there was expended on "Canadian Mother and Child," the publication to which hon. members referred, a total of \$27,193.16. That publication is issued at the rate of about 8,000 copies a month in both languages through provincial government and local authorities. We intend to produce a film entitled "Mother and Child", and there was spent on research and preparation of the strip a total of \$1,315.65. There was a smaller expenditure of \$302.76 on a film script. Re-printing of booklets on children, \$2,637.58. That totals the amount mentioned of \$31,449.15.

The amount sought this year is \$68,400 to provide for a continuation of exactly the same programme, with an additional output of "Canadian Mother and Child" and the completion of the film and film script to which I have referred. In addition, there will be a