

to me very unfortunate if that should be the result. Representations have been made to the minister already, as he is well aware, and we feel sure that the sentiment of the country will be entirely behind us in our request that this amount should be increased to the \$150,000 that was in the main estimates last year. I am speaking on this vote with the idea of encouraging the minister to go forward in his good work, and not in any way to handicap those who are giving it special consideration. I am well aware that a further item of \$25,000 is placed in the supplementaries, but I wish to urge upon the minister that the original amount be restored, that it be distributed among the provinces and the Social Hygiene Council as has been done during the past, and that we, as a parliament, set ourselves definitely towards co-operation with the provinces in the elimination of these diseases. Not only from the moral standpoint is it desirable that we should do so, but it was brought very forcibly to the notice of the military authorities during the war that these diseases had taken a terrible hold upon the young manhood of the nations. I do not know the facts in regard to Canada, but I did see estimates made that when the United States authorities began enlistment they found that these diseases had made such terrible inroads that many young men could not be enlisted. I know there are a number of hon. members who would wish to support me in this proposition.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I wish to associate myself with the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) in suggesting to the minister that the amount spent for this purpose be substantially increased. I think as a nation we have perhaps not fully realized what this work means to us, and I believe we could very well spend considerably more money on it than we do at present. I hope that in future the minister will see his way clear to increase this vote.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I do not know that it is necessary to endorse the position put forward by the member for Lisgar. Anyone who has come in contact with social service activities in any way must realize the necessity of the work that is now being carried on. Until recently the provinces have not done a great deal along this line, and even though they are doing a certain amount of work, there is no doubt great need for the co-ordination of their efforts and for that general stimulus which can come only through a centralized organization. I should like to read a few striking statements that are contained in a memorandum which I have [Mr. Brown.]

no doubt was furnished to many hon. members.

Veneral diseases constitute the most serious of all public health problems. They are more prevalent than any other diseases. They cause more disabilities than any other diseases, and syphilis, one of the venereal diseases, causes more deaths than any other diseases. Therefore it outranks as a cause of death pneumonia, tuberculosis and cancer, the next three causes of mortality.

This statement needs no commentary. The Minister of Agriculture constantly comes before the House to press the necessity of spending large sums to protect the health of our animals, and it would seem to me that the least we could do is to spend a few hundred thousand dollars in protecting the health of our people. Let me quote one or two other statements from this memorandum just as they catch my eye:

Patients admitted into the Toronto General Hospital are as a matter of regular routine examined; these tests in 1917 showed 12 per cent of the ward patients admitted for ordinary complaints to be suffering from syphilis.

In 1918 the like routine examinations in the Montreal General Hospital showed that 26 per cent of all the patients were suffering from syphilis.

And again:

In one year as many as 24 per cent of the annual male admissions to Toronto Hospital for the Insane have consisted of general paresis, a fatal form of insanity always caused by syphilis.

The following statistics are, I think, sufficient in themselves to warrant the extension of care of this character:

Venereal Diseases Dealt with in the Dominion in the years 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924	1921 1922 1923		
	Total number of new cases admitted to clinics and institutions..	10,267	12,252
Total number of cases reported by physicians.. . . .	15,189	16,220	15,477
Total number of new cases for year..	25,456	28,472	28,003
Total number of new cases admitted to clinics and institutions—			
Syphilis..	4,953	5,171	5,421
Gonorrhoea..	5,070	6,680	6,865
Chancroid..	244	401	240

When social diseases of this character have become so prevalent as this it would seem as if no expenditure is too great to be made in the effort to eradicate a disease which will poison the future generation of Canadians. One thing that appeals to me in the work that has been carried on is the stress that has been laid on the educational side of the work. A good many of the hon. members must have come in contact with the various exhibitions that have been put on, through which the public are being educated as to the seriousness of the ravages of these diseases.