

other affairs. We will later call upon the honourable Mr. Claxton and his departmental officers for questioning on various matters that may come to the minds of the members of this committee.

Hon. Mr. CLAXTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be available at any time; and if, either through yourself directly or through any member, there be anything for study and research, if you would let us know in advance we can come equipped with all the information on that subject. I extend that invitation to all the members. Let us know what you want to have and we will endeavour to get it for you.

The CHAIRMAN: It is the plan of this committee to obtain, first of all, a general picture, and then we can go back over the record and hear from some of the officials, probably yourself, on such questions as may arise.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: There was a report made by medical men in regard to a survey in the north. Did you indicate that the report would be available to the committee at any time? Could it be made available to the committee now?

Hon. Mr. CLAXTON: We receive regular reports from every medical officer in the service.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: But I understood there was a special survey made in 1945?

Hon. Mr. CLAXTON: There was a survey made on nutrition, and on blindness. We have those available. (See Appendix "F").

Mr. CASTLEDEN: And the individual mortality rate among the Indians?

Hon. Mr. CLAXTON: Yes, we give that in the tables, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 of appendix "B". Under the third item: diseases peculiar to the first year of life, the rate for 1942 is given as 156.5 for Indians as opposed to 50.8 for whites. For the year 1943 the rate for Indians is given as 153.8 as opposed to 55.4 for whites; and for the year 1944 the Indian rate is given as 159.1, whereas the rate for whites is 54.7. It will be noted that this rate is given as the rate per 100,000 of live population. We do not give it in the form which is more frequently given in infant mortality tables, as the mortality rate per 1,000 live births. We have not adequate figures covering the whole area for the number of live births, but I have asked the department to put together as much information as they can, to indicate that rate, and to let us have it. So we are trying to let you have that following the discussion we once had in the House. But you will see, from this, that the actual death rate shows a pretty consistent pattern, of being about three times as high, three times as many as for white children. We have not full figures on the number of births, but we are trying to get as full information on that as we can.

Mr. FARQUHAR: In Algoma East there are two large residential schools and also a hospital, but I do not see anything in the proposal in connection with the work there?

Hon. Mr. CLAXTON: Well, in relation to the submission, we did not endeavour to deal with the problem locality by locality, but rather to give the picture of the problem as a whole.

Mr. FARQUHAR: I notice you outlined it pretty well, but is there any mention made of Algoma East?

The CHAIRMAN: I think if you will refer to appendix "C" Mr. Farquhar, you will see where the Manitowaning hospital is mentioned.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The minister has given us a number of improvements which are to follow, and he has indicated in a general way the nature of those improvements; but has any thought been given to the amount of money which would be necessary to add to his appropriation in order that he might do the things outlined?