

were given 455,759 prescriptions, together with 58,542 pairs of eye-glasses for those with defective sight and 2,488 surgical appliances to overcome physical disabilities of various sorts. In cooperation with the WPA, 272,870 dental treatments were given by the dental projects. The total cost of the medical and nursing services was \$2,397,297, while the cost of dental care was \$344,471.

A WPA serving project sponsored by the city produced 5,292,295 pieces of cotton clothing and household articles valued at \$3,993,334, and the department distributed these articles through 16 depots to families under care. In addition, 127,642 women's and girls' coats and dresses were made by a WPA project and distributed by the department. The value of this clothing was \$545,826. The department also distributed 89,118 garments valued at \$940,248, which were allocated to the city by the federal government out of an open market purchase made to absorb the clothing surplus. These garments were of excellent quality and included men's and boys' suits and overcoats, women's and misses' suits, coats, dresses and other items, all of regular models. This clothing was provided over and above the cash allowances for clothing which are included in the relief grants from time to time.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to know what we are on. Are we discussing the bill or reading statistics?

Mr. POULIOT: I can tell the hon. member. In the first place, if he is not interested, he simply need not listen. But I am telling the committee what has been done across the boundary for people on relief. If we are not going to heed and profit from what has been done elsewhere for the good of mankind, we might as well just let the country drift. It is to the interest of Canada to know just what is being done elsewhere and to take advantage of it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Go ahead.

Mr. POULIOT: Certainly I will go ahead. The chairman is fair enough, and I take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman (Mr. Fournier, Hull) to welcome your presence in the chair.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): Suppose we have a holiday from this for twelve months and then start in again after the war is over.

Mr. POULIOT: I will tell the hon. member for Danforth, whose name I mentioned a moment ago, that this is no matter for a holiday. I will appeal to his heart. There are in this country people who are unemployable, unable to work, and I am pointing out to the committee what has been done

for unemployables in New York City. These men cannot work, and they must live. If we are going to take care of aliens and German people I do not see why we should not do something for our own people who would otherwise starve to death. I can go to the constituency of the hon. member for Danforth and speak to his own people, and then his small majority will be reduced to nothing and changed to a Liberal majority. I am sick of that kind of thing.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): Will the hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. POULIOT: No.

In New York city, Mr. Chairman, and in all the other cities of the United States a marked division is made between the unemployables and the employables. The unemployables, of course, are supposed to be looked after by the state because they can do no work in return, but they are considered as citizens just the same and something must be done for them, and the services I have enumerated are provided for the relief of unemployables. So efficient and so good are they that within a period of one year and a half the number of unemployables in the city of New York decreased from 210,000 to 155,000, thanks to the good food, good care and decent clothing provided. That means that 55,000 unemployables by reason of this good care and good food became employable. That is a great lesson in Christianity and brotherly love to the whole world.

But there is something else. While the city of New York takes good care of its unemployables, much is also done for its employables. I think hon. members will be surprised at the record of the city of New York in the years 1938 and 1939 in providing work for the unemployed of that city under the WPA. New York is only one city, but this work has been done under the dynamic leadership of Mayor LaGuardia and Colonel Brehon Somervell, a distinguished army engineer who made a survey of navigation conditions on the Rhine and Danube rivers for the League of Nations, and who also was engaged by the Turkish government to help put the country on a sound economic basis. Here are the notable achievements of the WPA in the city of New York in 1938:

Public buildings:

158 newly constructed, 761 reconditioned, work underway on 420.

Fire:

2 new houses erected, 41 renovated, work in progress on 40.

Highways:

172.5 miles of new construction, 308.2 improved.

Bridges:

13 new ones built, 46 altered and improved.