

British Columbia, Doctor Williams, to go to Washington to give them special lectures on the work being done in the province in connection with this particular problem. In Quebec there has been a marked revival of interest in this problem and they are taking active steps in this direction. I can safely say that at the moment the problem is not worse than it was a year ago.

Mr. COLDWELL: A large number of young men and women are being examined for the armed forces. Could the minister give us any idea as to the extent of this problem as divulged by examinations of this type? Is it bad in Canada? I am not asking for details.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): We are not definitely associated with the problem as it affects the armed forces; our acquaintance is only in connection with the cases discharged. My information is that the problem is much improved and that they are taking new steps in the armed forces with regard to certain tests taken on enlistment.

Mr. COLDWELL: Has the minister any comparison of the situation now with what it was during a comparable period of the great war?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I am informed that it is definitely better. There have been developed in recent years new cures which effect cures in remarkably short periods of time. This treatment was not available in the great war.

Mr. McCANN: This is perhaps a question which one is reluctant to discuss at length in public; yet it is of grave importance. Following the experience of the last war, we must realize that if precautions are not taken we may have a recurrence of what happened then. This appropriation of \$50,000 is to cover the whole of Canada. I suggest to the minister that he seriously consider the reestablishment of a branch within the department to deal with venereal diseases. No matter what is the opinion of the ordinary person with respect to this particular matter, it is the consensus of opinion of the medical profession of Canada that this disease is upon the increase. This is to be expected in war time.

While this matter is a particular problem of the medical services of the Department of National Defence, because of the great number of men and women who are being thrown together in war and industrial employment it becomes a definite civil problem. During the last war we had to spend as much as \$200,000 a year on this work. There should be a campaign of education, a campaign of enlightenment, a campaign to further the cooperation between the dominion department

[Mr. Ian Mackenzie.]

of health and the departments of health of the different provinces. Such a campaign would save the country a considerable amount of money in the long run. There are certain precautions which could well be taken and to which I understand serious consideration is being given by the Department of National Defence. I refer particularly to the blood tests which are given all who enter the armed services.

The person who contracts a venereal disease is a potential inmate of one of our mental institutions in the next ten or twenty years. I am sorry to say that in Canada we have 50,000 people in mental institutions, and of this number 15,000 or 16,000 are in Ontario. It is not fair to say that all these people are in these institutions because of some specific type of infection of this kind, but a great number are there for that reason. While such people will not become the immediate care of the federal government, they will become the care of the provincial governments in the years to come.

Mr. MacNICOL: Did I understand the hon. member to say that of the 50,000, only 15,000 were in Ontario?

Mr. McCANN: Fifteen or sixteen thousand. I am not going to elaborate on this particular problem; I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the minister. I know it has been brought to his attention and I know he is doing something about it. But I want the Canadian people to know that this problem, about which many of them are much disturbed, is receiving the attention of the department of health.

May I revert to the appropriation which was under discussion just a minute ago, the one having to do with nutrition. I want to commend the minister for the action he and his department have taken in that regard. The officer in charge of this work, Doctor Pett, has done splendid pioneering work. This is an important subject at any time, but it is particularly important in war time. I know of no greater saboteurs of our war effort than fatigue and malnutrition. A recent survey made in a large industrial establishment showed that only 11 per cent of the lunches brought by the industrial workers met their nutritional needs. Education and propaganda along these lines will do much to further our war effort. We must meet every enemy that we have with every sinew that is at our hand. If we can maintain the nutritional requirements of the people engaged in war industry, we shall be contributing a great deal to their efficiency. While it may not be the particular duty of the Department of Pensions and National Health to follow along this line, it is