

Health branch.

228. Nutrition service, \$27,507.

Mr. COLDWELL: I notice at page 162 of the estimates that the principal amount is \$12,960 for temporary assistance. I believe this is a new field of health work which has to be expanded. We know perfectly well, and I know from my former professional work, that it is not always the children coming from the depressed homes who were most badly nourished. Education is required in connection with the use of food. I would presume, of course, that a great deal of work has been done along these lines. As a matter of fact I have seen pamphlets from the department. I believe we can build up the health of our people very considerably if we undertake to do a real job in this connection. Then there is the desirability of using certain foods having a highly nutritive value which we produce in large quantities in Canada, instead of using more of the imported foods used by even the wealthy people. Sometimes those foods are not nutritive to the same degree.

I notice that this is a comparatively small item, and also a new one. I was wondering if the observation of the minister to the effect that the war appropriation measure carries further provisions could be applied to this item as well.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): My recollection is that there is proposed an additional \$5,000. There was \$10,000 last year, and there is \$27,000 this year, because the service in the department has been entirely remodelled since we met last year. We are receiving the most marvellous cooperation throughout the dominion. In my own judgment the vote is not even a fifth of what it should be, because not only in Canada but also in the United States as a result of what President Roosevelt has done, and because of what has been done in England, tremendous strides are being made in respect of nutritive service.

I had an opportunity last summer of speaking to an outstanding authority on the subject, Sir John Boyd Orr. I heard him say that we are farther ahead in respect of certain aspects of nutrition than was any other country in the world to-day. I was pleased to hear that, because sometimes we are prone to decry our own actions in Canada. In the presence of my deputy minister, Sir John Boyd Orr told me that we were ahead of the whole world in respect of certain aspects, such as the new loaf which has been developed in Canada from the new flour. He told me

that we are ahead of England and the United States by virtue of the fact that we have used the natural quality of our own Canadian wheat, whereas they are depending upon synthetic products. That is something of which we as Canadians may be proud. As a result of the service carried out by Doctor Pett and Miss Harlow, we really have done a splendid piece of work. It is gratifying to hear such a statement made about our system.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Did Sir John Boyd Orr specify particularly in what matters we were ahead?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mostly in respect of those two. Until some years ago we were very far behind. Of course what was said was not a compliment to me, or anything of that kind. The fact is that I am not at all satisfied, but we are going forward and we will go forward even farther yet.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The particular aspect in respect of which we are distinctly behind is that of getting the nutritive food into the hands of those who need it. With us it is a matter of distribution. Visiting Great Britain last autumn we had a fine opportunity to see what could be done in the city of Stoke-on-Trent. We were shown through fine community kitchens, and explanations were given as to how they were feeding the children and the people generally. I believe that at a very early date, if not immediately, Canada should take steps to see to it that the children receive milk and the other foods they need. We have altogether too much poverty in this country, even in war time.

Item agreed to.

Health branch.

229. Venereal diseases, \$50,000.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Is it considered that no increase is required in respect of this item?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): With regard to the situation generally throughout Canada I can say that there has not been any change since I presented the estimates a year ago. We are naturally confronted with certain difficulties caused by war conditions, as my hon. friend will understand, and about which I shall not particularize now. I can assure my hon. friend that the department is most vigilant in connection with cooperation with the provincial authorities. The provincial governments have been doing excellent work in this connection. As a matter of fact, for two years in succession the United States congress has asked our provincial officer in