

As regards equal pay for equal work in the case of women under federal jurisdiction, may I refer my honourable friends to the House of Commons *Hansard* for 1928, 1929 and 1930. They will see that the Liberal party's interest in and efforts on behalf of the working class is nothing new.

In the case of labour disputes, no one ever called in vain upon the good judgment, the tact and fair play of the Minister of Labour, the Honourable Mr. Gregg.

(Text):

Honourable ladies and gentlemen, I have a few notes in English to which I will refer.

Department of National Health and Welfare—Because of the initiative of Prime Minister St. Laurent and his predecessor, the late Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Canadians now enjoy the benefits of such far-reaching programs as family allowances, old age security, allowances for the blind and the national health program.

During the past twelve months the most recent social measure introduced by the present Government—disability allowances—completed its first full year of operation. Through the co-operation of the federal and provincial governments, this program brings a welcome measure of relief to thousands of Canadians who are totally and permanently disabled. It covers a previously neglected area of social need and, together with other programs to which I have already referred, brings federal expenditures on health and welfare to more than \$1 billion a year.

As the most recent forward step in the field of health, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Paul Martin, has this week called a national conference of outstanding specialists in the field of heart diseases for the purpose of considering further measures to combat heart ailments, which now account for more deaths each year than any other single cause. On past occasions the Minister of National Health and Welfare has taken important initiative in campaigns to conquer other diseases. As a result of his personal efforts, there were formed two national health organizations, the National Cancer Institute and the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, which have done much useful work. The department has also administered programs in such fields as tuberculosis, mental health and medical rehabilitation, and has directed a program of health grants to the provinces which has stimulated the construction of 800 new hospitals or hospital additions and the extension and improvement of existing health facilities and services.

The Department of National Health and Welfare made possible during the past year the immunization against polio with the Salk vaccine of nearly one million children. Canada's Salk vaccine program has won wide acclaim for the safe, effective and well-planned manner in which it was administered. This was only possible because careful preparations were made well in advance, so that as soon as it was announced that the vaccine was safe and effective Canada was in a position to proceed without delay on a large-scale program for the benefit of our children.

Expenditures on old age security reached a total of nearly \$362 million as more than 760,000 persons 70 years of age and over benefited from the universal old age security pension. In the department's third area of responsibility, Civil Defence, continued progress was evident. During 1955 mass evacuation exercises were carried out during which advance centres for the treatment of disaster victims were established in various parts of the country. Now as a result of co-operation at the various levels of organization, more than 7,000 persons have received training in various aspects of Civil Defence. Across Canada, over 170,000 persons have accepted Civil Defence responsibilities on a full-time or voluntary basis.

Later this month the Minister of National Health and Welfare will be meeting with the provincial ministers of health to discuss the question of health insurance, as a result of the discussions that took place last October at the federal-provincial conference.

During the past 12 months there was continued expansion in existing social welfare measures. At the end of 1955 more than 5,300,000 children in nearly 2,250,000 families were benefiting under the family allowances program, with payments for the year in the neighbourhood of \$378 million.

Says Liberals enriched women—This is a clipping from one of my favourite newspapers, the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, of January 15, 1936. It reads:

The Liberal government during the last 10 years has entrusted more money to the women of Canada than any other government in history, Mrs. C. J. Embree of Halifax said Wednesday.

President of the National Federation of Liberal Women of Canada, she told the Alberta branch that "the Liberal government in Ottawa has placed \$3,060 million in the hands of Canadian mothers to be spent on the welfare of their children."

This is my only political quotation. It seems to be appreciated.

How much has been done for the veterans?

Treatment facilities—The Department of Veterans Affairs, since the days of World War II, has been working towards a Canada-wide