

Mr. Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand, also had knowledge as to that state of affairs, and so did Canada, I charge. That cannot be denied; we refused to cooperate. Canada had this information long before the present minister came to office; Canada knew all about the weakness in the Pacific. As the *Times* has said, the essence of strategy at its highest level is the assessment of priorities as between the various theatres of war. After dangers have been foreseen, then weaknesses must be deliberately tolerated in some places in order that decisive strength may be concentrated elsewhere, because Britain and her empire were not ready to meet an armed foe. We must bear in mind the old adage that half a yard of cloth cannot be made to do what a yard will do.

I am sorry I had to bring up these matters at this time, but I think it of the utmost importance that we should face the facts before it is too late, and before there is a surprise attack on Canada, a coveted land. I suggest further that, as suggested, we should amend our rules in order to do away with lengthy debates of this kind. In the mother country for the first few days of the last war they followed the same practice we are following to-day, but then they got down to the procedure of question, answer and supplementary question. There has not been a question placed on the order paper during the last few weeks that could not have been answered satisfactorily on the orders of the day, with supplementary questions that would prevent weeks of debates.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): I should like to ask one or two questions. Are female medical officers taken into the service in order to check on applicants for the women's service corps? Has any consideration been given to appointing women medical officers to the dependents' allowance boards? Some mention has been made of the emergency board in connection with dependents' allowances. I understand that boards have been set up at various points throughout the country. Could the minister tell us in which districts those boards have been set up? Then there is one further question before I sit down. Are sulphanilamide tablets being given to the men on active service, for use in case of wounding? I understand that after the Pearl Harbour bombing the men who had sulphanilamide tablets were saved, while those who did not have them became casualties.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend asked about medical officers for the Canadian Women's Army Corps. No female medical

officers have been appointed, but the matter is under consideration and a certain number will be appointed. Then as to question No. 2, in regard to the dependents' allowance board, I do not think any medical officers are appointed to those boards, or to the board of trustees.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Would it not be a wise thing to do, with the number of women in the service corps increasing all the time? Would it not be wise to have female medical officers there?

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend misunderstood me. I said we expected to appoint female medical officers for the examination and check-up of members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Then I thought my hon. friend also asked whether or not women medical officers would be appointed in connection with the dependents' allowance board of trustees.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Not the trustees; the board.

Mr. RALSTON: I shall inquire about that, but I have not in mind that the dependents' allowance boards have medical officers. There may be one medical officer who checks over the files, but I do not think examinations are made by the dependents' allowance board. With regard to sulphanilamide, that is not issued to the individual soldiers, but the medical officers are supplied with it, and the matter is receiving consideration now.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Where are the boards set up under the dependents' allowance?

Mr. RALSTON: I put that information on *Hansard* somewhere, and if my hon. friend does not mind I will send him the reference later.

Mr. BRUCE: I hesitate to prolong this debate, Mr. Chairman, because I consider that the minister has been very painstaking and patient in his answers to a great many questions. I have no intention of submitting any further questions, but I thought I might be able to add something to the debate in view of two or three matters which have come up this afternoon.

Reference was made to the practice as to operating on hernias. This question came up also during the last war, when I made an investigation of the medical services overseas in 1917 and reported my findings to the Minister of Militia. That report should be in the library. To-day I tried unsuccessfully to obtain a copy, although in the sessional papers I was able to obtain the interim