

those meetings as Canadian delegate, when not in attendance at the house. One of the specialized agencies of the economic and social council, as I say, is the proposed international health organization. A technical preparatory committee met at Paris from March 18 to April 5, 1946. That committee had on it fifteen technical experts, one of whom was Doctor G. B. Chisholm, deputy minister of national health of Canada. He was honoured by appointment as rapporteur of the committee and presented the report to the economic council on the work that was done. That report was made in New York on May 28, and was well received. The matter is now receiving consideration by the economic and social council, and its observations on the report of the technical preparatory commission will be put before the international health conference which has been called to meet at New York on June 19. Canada will be represented there, and it is expected that the members of the united nations who answer the summons to that meeting will begin to work out the constitution of an international health organization, using as their basis the draft prepared at Paris by the technical preparatory commission.

The scope of the proposed international organization is extensive. It would deal with a large number of matters, principally through international cooperation. Hon. members might be interested if I quoted the first few lines of the preamble of the draft, which states:

The states parties to this world convention recognize the following truths as basic to harmonious relationships between all peoples of the world.

Health is a state of physical fitness and of mental and social well-being; not only the absence of infirmity and disease.

The right to health is one of the fundamental rights to which every human being is entitled, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

I hope that gives the hon. member some of the information he wanted.

Mr. KNOWLES: Who will be Canada's representative at that meeting? Will it be the minister himself?

Mr. CLAXTON: I expect so, together with the deputy minister of national health. I am not in a position to announce the others, but we hope to secure the assistance of some representatives of the medical profession and professional organizations.

Item agreed to

National health branch—

202. Food and drugs, \$365,032.

Mr. FLEMING: I should like to ask a question dealing with this item and relating

to the next two items as well. Is the minister satisfied that under existing legislation and regulations, and their administration, the people of this country are receiving adequate protection with reference to food and drugs, opium and narcotic drugs, and proprietary or patent medicines?

Mr. CLAXTON: With regard, first, to the question of the administration of the Food and Drugs act, I think I can give that assurance to the hon. member. In discussing this with representatives of other nations, I find they are generally appreciative of the legislation we have in Canada and the way it is enforced. In the department we try to secure enforcement through cooperation; first, with representatives of the various trade associations and, second, with the people in business. The number of prosecutions is not very great, but this does not mean that the extent of sampling or analysis is not sufficient to maintain effective control over the quality of the food that is distributed in Canada. I have been greatly impressed with this branch, and we have every reason to be pleased with the way the officers do their work. It commands the general respect of the trade, as well as of technical experts.

With regard to drugs or medicines, there is a general impression that the federal government exercises control over medicines in order to ensure effective labelling of poisonous drugs or medicines. That is not so. The labelling provisions of the federal government require publicity and information as to the contents rather than act as a warning. The warnings are applied under provincial legislation. All the provinces have acts which require warnings as to certain types of medicines.

With regard to the administration of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, I can say with confidence that Canada's administration has been recognized throughout the world as among the best to be found anywhere. That is largely due to the part played by Colonel C. H. L. Sharman, C.M.G., C.B.E., who recently retired, and who is to act on the international narcotics commission.

The number of addicts, in so far as they can be estimated, has been reduced materially during the war. The shortage of drugs and the need of using them for purposes in association with the war, led to more effective control. For one thing, regulations have been changed to provide that all narcotic drugs can be sold only on prescription, except for preparations containing small quantities of codeine, and that only in conjunction with other medicines. Control has been closely