

VII. *General Observations*

52. At the end of another year we expect to have in this department a much more thorough knowledge of the problem and of ways to meet it. In this connection it should be observed that by reason of the inclusion of Indian Health Services in this department a large number of specialist service have become directly available. These include the Division of Hospital Design headed by an architect specializing in hospital construction; Divisions of Nutrition, Venereal Disease Control, Dental Health, Mental Health, Child and Maternal Health, and Public Health Engineering. They are not only available for consultation but are working out with the officers of the Indian Health Services programs in their various specialties. The Division of Information Services is collaborating in a health education program including the use of films.

53. Since about 18,300 Indian and Eskimo families are recipients of Family Allowances for about 55,000 children, arrangements are being made to provide special instructions to them on the most advantageous ways to use these funds which amount to a total of \$53,610,000 per year. This is carried on in collaboration with the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources. Nutrition instructions in Indian have been distributed, and purchases of recommended foods have considerably increased. Particulars of the operation of family allowances will be made available to the Committee.

54. It is evident that the health of the Indians and Eskimos of Canada is inseparable from their general welfare and economic standing. These matters do not come within the jurisdiction of this department, but we have seen enough of the problem to recognize its fundamental complexity. It is important to remember that one of the greatest factors in self-reliance is provision of adequate food and shelter for one's dependents. Such surveys as have been made indicate consistent nutritional deficiencies in Indians as contributing to their inferior health and economic status. Improved nutrition can be brought about by education and by improvement in economic standing itself. Government assistance should as far as possible aim at putting the Indians and Eskimos in a condition in which they can themselves gain a better living as the basis for good health, greater welfare and a better life. Indians living in organized communities should have advantages similar to those of the white people living in those communities.

VIII. *Summary of Proposals*

55. The proposals put forward in this submission may be summarized as follows:—

Following each of these items is a reference to the relevant paragraph in the submission.

1. Increase the staff and revise salaries (paras. 36, 37 and 39).
2. Reorganize the professional staff on a service basis (para. 38).
3. Increase hospital facilities (para. 40).
4. Increase the number of nursing stations (para. 41).
5. Intensify tuberculosis case finding and extend the use of BCG vaccine (para. 42).
6. Extend and develop specific immunization (para. 43).
7. Improve first aid arrangements (para. 44).
8. Provide for the medical examination of those entering the North (para. 45).