

have been in charge of day nursery work in Toronto for many years I suggest that the fault could not possibly lie with the personnel or the staff employed. It is true that England requested the services of a group of workers or teachers who have been engaged in this work in Canada, in order to assist in the instruction in England of personnel for this work. We are not a particularly backward country as far as the personnel of day nursery schools go. I understand a comprehensive report was made to the minister or to his predecessor more than two years ago with regard to the establishment of day nursery schools. I am quite satisfied that if the direction of the personnel in charge of day nursery schools in Toronto were accepted in full there would be many more than 1,000 children in these schools across Canada.

I am interested in this item because it provides \$120,000 for "day nurseries and like facilities". I should like to know what the "like facilities" are and what portion of that \$120,000 is set aside for these "like facilities". I assume that at least one of these facilities will be provision of recreation for war workers. A conference was held in Ottawa nearly three months ago and a very successful conference held in Toronto a few days later. Would the minister give us a statement as to just what progress has been made in the matter of this recreation for war workers? I feel that it is vitally important in view of the enormous amount of juvenile delinquency in this country. Only a few days ago I went into a city in western Ontario and found the newspaper editor there, the mayor of the city, much perturbed about the amount of child delinquency. A conference of those interested in the problem was being held on the evening of my visit. I should like the minister to inform us, while he is making that statement, what money will be available for this recreational work, particularly in Toronto, the city with which I am most associated; and second, what provision is being made to secure trained personnel for this work. I understand that in England and other parts of Great Britain this is deemed so important in its contribution to the building of the morale of the civilian population that trained men have been recalled from the armed forces to take charge of this work. If they can do that in England, I think our government should be prepared to see that trained men and women are made available in Canada for this work, even though postponements have to be granted for that special purpose. I should like the minister to take those two points into consideration in reporting on recreation for war workers.

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

Mr. MITCHELL: In reply to the questions put forward by the hon. member, let me say first that I am not one of those who think the state should do everything. I wish that to be clearly understood, whatever may be the opinion of other hon. members. I believe that it is all to the good to have recreation organized on a voluntary basis, in some cases probably with some direction from the state. In many industries and some municipalities that is being done. In my own city of Hamilton we pride ourselves—I say this with some diffidence—on having probably the best playgrounds organization in Canada.

Mr. MARTIN: You should see Windsor.

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend says, "You should see Windsor". There passes through my mind the work which is being done in my hon. friend's own city, and in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and elsewhere. Some communities have expanded tremendously since the outbreak of war. I do not think it is the duty of the federal government to undertake the direction of all recreational activities in Canada; that would be going a pretty long way. But in my judgment some communities are in urgent need of some direction, and I have them in mind at the present time, though I shall not enumerate them at the present time because I might get into trouble.

My hon. friend spoke of the conference. That conference was held, I think, a few weeks ago.

Mr. BLACKMORE: April 9.

Mr. MITCHELL: I have a vivid recollection of the conference, although I did not attend it. There was a thorough discussion of the entire question, and conversations are now going on between Ontario and Quebec with respect to the matter and looking forward to the possible signing of an agreement between these two provinces. An initial sum amounting to \$40,000 has been voted by order in council. I say that that is an initial sum. I do not know what the total cost will be before we are through with it.

I wish to be perfectly frank with my hon. friend, so, I must tell him that if he thinks we are going to employ an army of directors across this country in connection with this plan he is likely to be disappointed. We shall endeavour in the terms of this agreement to give some direction to recreation. I know many trade unions are deeply interested in the subject of recreation. My own trade union used to have its own recreational activities. But the hon. member can rest assured that when the agreements are consummated they