

Does the department maintain a hospital? If so, to whom is the \$300,000 paid for professional and special services?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): There are six special officers stationed at a certain Canadian eastern port to look after the special traffic occasioned by war conditions.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does the department maintain a hospital?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): It is the anchorage traffic, going out to ships with men, and bringing men from ships. It is very necessary.

Mr. MacNICOL: I have no doubt it is very necessary, but I notice provision is made for one hospital guard, and I wondered if the department maintained a hospital.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): A very small one in a certain small seaport in Nova Scotia.

Mr. MacNICOL: This \$300,000 is paid to professional doctors.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): And services connected therewith.

Mr. MacNICOL: For necessary medical services.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Yes.

Item agreed to.

Health branch.

226. Industrial hygiene, \$7,870.

Mr. GILLIS: I am disappointed to find that this appropriation is reduced by some \$3,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): May I inform my hon. friend that it has been more than doubled. I think it is about two and a half times what it was, but the amount is in the war appropriation measure, and not in the ordinary estimates.

Mr. GILLIS: The point I have in mind might more properly be handled by the Department of Pensions and National Health, in view of the fact that it is the function of that department to carry on investigations with respect to industrial diseases, and the causes and cures thereof. With the extension of industry in Canada there is a great need for this work. I emphasized on two occasions the desirability and necessity of expanding this work with respect to the mining industry, and particularly with regard to silicosis. I am glad to hear that this work is going forward.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): We get the appropriation from two different sources, one from the ordinary estimates and

[Mr. MacNicol.]

the other from the war appropriation moneys. The direction and supervision are under the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. MacNICOL: Do the provinces not maintain similar divisions in their departments of health?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Just Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. MacNICOL: I am in favour of this vote, and I am glad to see the federal government taking a hand in industrial hygiene. Along with the hon. member for Cape Breton South I have long had the same idea in mind, namely that the mines and general working conditions of miners should be thoroughly inspected from the point of view of industrial hygiene. If there is one class that deserves this service more than another, it is the man underground. I notice in the vote that there is nothing for the chief of division. What is the reason for that?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): He is on active service. That is why there is nothing marked opposite his name in the estimates.

Item agreed to.

Health branch.

227. Medical investigations, \$25,481.

Mr. McCANN: What is the work of the department under this vote? Is it for research?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): It is the examination of personnel of the civil service with regard to fitness and as regards making calculations as to the incidence of certain diseases. I believe excellent work has been carried out in that regard. The examinations conducted with reference to the civil service have been well worth the effort.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would it not be well to increase rather than to decrease this estimate?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I wish we could.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I imagine the minister would have something to say about it.

Mr. GILLIS: Not much.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Again in this instance we have twice the amount we had last year. We get it from another source, namely the war appropriation measure. That is the difficulty in connection with assessing the contributions made to these various operations. If we look at the details in the items in the ordinary estimates, we find an indication of what is being done.

Item agreed to.