

it absolutely impossible to collect fees for any such services rendered. The same would apply to the district surrounding the town of Cochrane. That applies as forcibly to other sections, such as those surrounding Kapuskasing and Hearst. Then, regulation No. 3 is as follows:

Any municipality wishing to undertake the furnishing of medical services and medical supplies and desiring to secure government assistance in connection with such work under the order in council above referred to must comply with the following requirements:

(a) All medical treatment to indigent patients in their homes or in doctors' offices is included, also maternity services at homes, as well as after treatment, in major emergency operations outside of hospitals; the doctors furnishing the necessary medical supplies.

(b) For such services as outlined in the previous subsection the doctor may be allowed one-half the established prevailing fee for such service in the community.

(c) Surgical and medical treatment in hospitals or other institutions for treatment of disease and surgical operations outside of hospitals are not included.

(d) Before the medical services and supplies are given an order in writing for same must be obtained from the relief officer, except in very emergent cases where the relief officer can give such an order after some part of the services required has been performed.

(e) Accounts for medical services and supplies must be rendered by the doctor in an itemized statement, and each account must show the details of the prevailing charges in the locality for such services upon which the one-half claim is based. Such account must be rendered to the relief officer and forwarded by him to this department with the monthly statement.

(f) In rural municipalities a maximum mileage fee of twenty-five cents per mile, one way, may be allowed.

(g) An amount in excess of \$100 in a doctor's account for any one month will not be allowed.

(h) It will be observed that "medical services and medical supplies" is one of the items of direct relief that must be included in the forty per cent as set out in the order in council.

This rule, Mr. Speaker, is of absolutely no use to our section of the country. If my information is correct, in the city of Ottawa medical men giving their services under the relief act are allowed a minimum of \$400 per month. I suppose they attend an average of 2,000 people. In our section, however, in the unorganized districts the doctors have to look after the health of at least 6,000 people. Travelling conditions are poor in a good many cases, he would have to go fifty miles each way, making a round trip of one hundred miles, for which he is allowed twenty-five cents a mile one way. While that may be fair enough in the summer months when auto-

mobiles can be used, in the winter months the amount allowed by the government is not sufficient. We know that doctors in the newer sections have a more difficult task than those in the more populated areas. I do not know of any doctor in my section of the country who through lack of money has refused to give service. Let us visualize what would happen for instance, in a maternity case: The doctor is called, but on account of the fact that the government is not willing to pay fifty per cent of the fee, he refuses to attend. Supposing that on account of such refusal death follows; who would be responsible, or who would receive the blame? It would be the doctor. I put this fair question to the house: Is a doctor more obliged to give public service than any other citizen? Must he make more sacrifice for the public than any other citizen? A hundred dollars a month to attend to 6,000 people, and to supply them with proper medicaments, is wholly inadequate. To be fair I must say that in some cases the provincial government has given more; still the payment is inadequate. We have the spectacle of that splendid profession being compelled to make a sacrifice which is not asked from any other section of the population. I know of a case where a doctor in the town of Kapuskasing received a call from an adjoining locality. In that instance the poor settler did not have money enough to pay for the phone call, and the doctor had to pay the reversed charge of \$1.40. The doctor never hesitated, but went to attend the patient. He took his car, knowing that he would never receive a single cent for the services he was going to give. Surely a government could not object to helping pay a fee in an instance such as that. The minister may urge that this is a matter with which the provincial legislature should deal. I maintain however, as I said previously, that since we are voting money for relief, out of the federal treasury something should be done by the federal authorities, and it should take a lead in such matters.

To make my point clearer, and so that the house may be fully seized of the seriousness of the situation, I am going to read a letter from one of the doctors which is typical of several letters I have received from doctors in my section of the country. As I said a while ago, we all know that professional men, whether they be doctors or lawyers, never expect to get the full amount of their fees. This applies more forcibly to doctors, because in addition to giving their personal attention they have to supply the necessary