

Supply—Health and Welfare

Mr. HAZEN: Where does the item for his salary appear?

Mr. CLAXTON: The salary of the director of health services is fixed on a temporary basis of \$6,900 and that item is included in the \$52,860. It is proposed to have three assistant directors of health services at \$6,600 totalling \$19,800; one chemist, \$2,820; three principal clerks at \$1,920, or \$5,760; one secretary to executive, \$1,890; one clerk, grade four, \$1,620; two clerks grade three, \$1,590 and \$1,380, or \$2,970; one clerk grade two, \$1,110; and nine other employees, making a total of twenty-two temporaries, totalling \$52,860.

Mr. FLEMING: Are the three assistant directors of health services to be permanent officials?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes.

Mr. FLEMING: Why are they shown as temporaries?

Mr. CLAXTON: Because the positions have not yet been made permanent.

Mr. FLEMING: Are they at present on the staff awaiting the time when they will be made permanent?

Mr. CLAXTON: They have not yet been appointed.

Mr. FLEMING: Is there to be an extended programme of work? This item contemplates an extension of staff that is likely to be permanent or semi-permanent. Is there such an extension of work in branch administration as to justify this increase in expenditure?

Mr. CLAXTON: This is part of an establishment which was worked out after the creation of the department in October, 1944, and modified from time to time. That organization, which was worked out in the first instance by the civil service commission and the treasury board, has been modified periodically and is now in a form which, we hope, will take care of the reasonable requirements of the department for as long as one can see ahead. It involves a certain amount of devolution. Where formerly there was a director of health services and other officers in the department, we expect now that there will be a director of health services who will report to the deputy minister, and under him three assistant directors of health services, one of whom will deal with the statutory duties of the department, another with laboratory work, having regard particularly to food, drugs and so on, and the third largely with promotional activities. They are, we believe, necessary in order to discharge the work of the department.

[Mr. Claxton.]

Mr. HAZEN: Who was the director of health services last year?

Mr. CLAXTON: Doctor J. J. Heagerty was director of health services until his retirement just before his death. Since this is mentioned for the first time in the house, I should like to pay tribute to one who served for over thirty years in the government service and whose work was known throughout Canada as that of a great public servant, a distinguished doctor, and a man who did everything possible to promote the health and welfare of the people of Canada. It was with the greatest regret that we saw him retire, and with still greater regret we learned of his death during the current year.

Mr. HAZEN: May I ask who is acting as director of health services now?

Mr. CLAXTON: Doctor Cameron.

Mr. KNOWLES: Included in this item is an amount of \$1,134 as Canada's contribution to the international office of public health, and in that connection I should like to ask one or two questions. Is that the only contribution Canada makes to the field of international health? In asking the next question I may be guilty of touching off a forty-minute speech by the minister, but still it is an important matter. It is this: how are things coming along in the field of international health? I have in mind the proposal made at meetings of the united nations in London that as soon as possible there should be an international conference with a view to developing an international organization to meet the health needs of the present day. The minister is running back and forth, I believe, between his responsibilities here and meetings in connection with this matter, and I wonder if he could give us a statement as to how these matters stand at the present time.

Mr. CLAXTON: The invitation of the hon. member to start on a forty-minute speech on this subject is attractive, but I shall try not to work on such a hair-trigger that I may be touched so easily. This is the only vote in this department which includes anything for international health, but my impression is that the budget of the old league of nations would include an amount which would go to the old health section of the league, which carried on useful work from the time the league was started.

With regard to the proposed world health organization, this is one of the specialized agencies of the economic and social council of the united nations. The council has been meeting since May 24 at New York at Hunter college in the Bronx. I have been attending