

One other resolution along similar lines, which seemed to me a reasonable one, was passed at the annual meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association held at Ottawa on the same date. It states:

That whereas the venereal disease problem is a matter of national importance, previously dealt with most efficiently in Canada by a carefully coordinated scheme involving co-operation between the dominion and the provinces, financial and otherwise, and carried on by virtue of the existence of a venereal disease division in the dominion Department of Health, assistance to organized education and propaganda;

And whereas three conferences of clinicians called by the dominion government in Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal in 1931 made various recommendations, practically none of which have been carried out;

And whereas the Dominion Council of Health in December, 1931, endorsed these recommendations urging continuance of grants and extension of the scheme,

Therefore be it resolved that the dominion government be memorialized and asked to reinstate the grants to the provinces, to re-establish the division of venereal diseases in the dominion government, and to make adequate provision for educational purposes throughout Canada to the end that the Canadian scheme be once more put on an effective basis.

I commend these resolutions once more to the attention of the minister.

Sometimes we have been inclined to think that Canada is in the very forefront of development. As a matter of fact, in matters of public welfare Canada lags far behind. The hon. member for St. Boniface, who preceded me, told of some of the achievements in soviet Russia. I was reading only a few days ago a book entitled, *Social Work and Legislation in Sweden*, published by the Royal Social Board. This is a survey, published by order of the Swedish government. I wish I had time to place some of the facts contained in the book before the house; but in view of the long list of speakers, I shall refer only to the work itself. As I look over the paragraphs, I am delighted to think of what could be accomplished in Canada, and what actually is being accomplished in other countries.

The following headings and subheadings will indicate the variety of subjects discussed:

Social Insurance:

- Accident insurance.
- Sickness benefit funds.
- National pensions, children's allowances and compensation for blindness.
- Pension funds, endowment insurance societies, etc.
- Relief and pensions for seamen.

Hygiene and Care of the Sick:

- Organization of public hygiene and care of the sick.

Private organizations:

- The Red Cross.
- Swedish Public Baths Association.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Hygiene and Care of the Sick—Concluded

Combating national diseases:

- Tuberculosis.
- Venereal diseases
- Diseases of the teeth.
- Cancer

Care of the abnormal:

- Mental disease.
- Care of the mentally deficient.
- Care of epileptics.
- Cripples.
- The blind.
- The deaf and the deaf-mutes.

It may be all very well to have instituted within the last few days a trans-Canada air service; it may be all very well to boast of our natural resources, and of the enormous sums being piled up by certain individuals and corporations in Canada, but I suggest it would be a great deal better for Canada if we could boast that no unemployed man or no sick person goes neglected. Canada might then be laying the foundations of true national greatness.

I hope that to-day, as has so often happened, the government will not close the debate by pointing out jurisdiction and financial difficulties which may lie in the way. I do not ask that the whole of medical aid should be brought under a centralized agency, but I cannot see that there is any reason why the dominion government could not have an active health department which would help to co-ordinate the work of the provinces and municipalities, which would undertake certain types of work common to all the provinces and, above all, which would give financial backing to the various schemes already under way.

Mr. H. R. FLEMING (Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, in listening to the speech of the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McIvor), I found it difficult to determine the intention behind the resolution appearing on the order paper. Does he mean complete socialization of state medicine, or does he mean the extension of state influence and control in the health field? It is difficult to find uniformity of opinion, even among medical men, on the question of state medicine. I take the term to mean a system under which the state would assume responsibility for all medical men, under which all those engaged in medical services would be employees of the state.

As state medicine has been widely discussed and as the subject is of vital importance, it is essential that we should keep in mind the distinction between socialization of medicine, which I have interpreted state medicine to mean, and other forms of cooperation in the health field, such as health insurance.