

among mothers and children has been reduced considerably, still we have a long way to go in some parts of the country to reach even a respectable level. I should like to see the grant very greatly increased; indeed I look forward to the day when maternal and child welfare will be one of the principal cares of this dominion. Naturally in war time we appreciate more the value of healthy human beings; and when we think that some 44 per cent of our young men were turned down for medical reasons when they volunteered for service in the armed forces, we realize that there must be something wrong with the nutrition and care of our children. I do not want to say very much about that matter this afternoon, but I think I have said enough to indicate that as far as this group are concerned we would be pleased to support the minister and the government in enlarging the field of endeavour in this regard, and would support almost any appropriation the government might set aside for this very important work of maternal and child hygiene.

Mr. GRAYDON: If I may say just a word on that point, the group represented by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar is not alone in its desire to see this part of our national life well looked after. I should like to add a word in support of what he has said, and I would ask the minister if he could give the committee any information on how our infant mortality now stands as compared with the figures for the years that have gone before.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I certainly appreciate the support I have received in regard to this question. As a matter of fact, I tried to have this vote increased more than a year ago, but this year I was successful in getting an increase. The figures are as follows. According to the report of the British ministry of health for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1940, maternal and child death rates for that year in Great Britain were at the rate of 2.61 per thousand total live births. The infant mortality rate in 1940 was 56 per thousand live births. In the city of Ottawa maternal mortality for 1941 was at the rate of 1.71 for residents and 2.91 including non-residents hospitalized in the city. Infant mortality for residents was at the rate of 47.6, as compared with 45.2 in 1940. There was a slight increase there. In the United States the infant mortality for 1940 was 3.5 per thousand live births, or three-fifths of the 1936 rate, and the same figure applied in Canada in 1941. In other words, in 1941 we were at their level for 1940, though I have not the figures for the United States for 1941. The infant mortality rate

in the United States in 1940 was 47 per thousand live births, which was a slight increase over the previous year, while 1941 shows a continuing trend upward. The general mortality from all causes was 10.5, which was slightly lower than in 1939. In Canada the infant mortality rate in 1940 was 56 per thousand live births, while the maternal mortality rate for the same year was 3.9 per thousand live births. Therefore the situation is definitely improving in Canada.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister gave the figures for Ottawa. Has he the figures for Halifax or Montreal?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I have not those figures here. I think Ottawa has the best record, as far as I can remember.

Mr. COLDWELL: And in the other two cities—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): The rate would be much higher.

Mr. COLDWELL: Has the minister the figures for New Zealand?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I gave them last year, but I am afraid they were then two years old. I have some figures here which may be interesting to the committee:

Maternal mortality in Canada and certain other countries

Country	1938	1939
New Zealand	4.1	3.6
Norway	3.0 (2)	
Netherlands	2.6 (2)	
Australia	4.7	4.1
Switzerland	4.2	3.5
Sweden	3.1 (3)	
Iceland	(4)	(4)
England and Wales	3.1	
United States	4.4	4.0
South Africa (white)	3.7	
British Isles	3.5 (2)	
Irish Free State	3.6	2.7
Denmark	3.1	
Germany	4.8 (3)	
France	2.1 (3)	
Northern Ireland	5.3	3.8
Scotland	4.9	
Canada (1)	4.2	4.2

(1) Exclusive of Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

(2) 1937 rate.

(3) 1936 rate.

(4) Not available.

Item agreed to.

Health branch.

225. Treatment of sick mariners, \$338,380.

Mr. MacNICOL: Will the minister give us a description of the work carried on under this item? On page 160 I notice that provision is made for the salary of one hospital guard.