

be a field that is wide open and one in which more should be done, so that any money spent in this direction is all to the good.

Mr. MacNICOL: The two hon. gentlemen who have last spoken have touched on an important subject. If it were not for the lateness of the hour I should like to elaborate upon it. The large industrial plants themselves do what they can to protect the health of their employees, and so they should. When they consult an architect to draw up plans they ask him to lay out the plant with a view to conserving the health of the employees. I believe I have asked in previous years what the department does to assist in this matter. They certainly cannot interfere in the provinces, because health is a matter that is under provincial control, but this parliament and the government could assist through the medium of the provinces and the provinces could in this way assist industrial institutions. It is important that every possible safeguard should be provided in plants, large and small, to preserve and conserve the health of all workers. I should like to hear from the minister how the department assists, through the provinces down to the plants, or through the architectural association.

Mr. CLAXTON: The department does work closely with the provincial authorities. The specialized facilities provided by the division of industrial hygiene were utilized for its own investigations and by provincial health and labour departments, workmen's compensation boards, private factories, labour groups and other agencies concerned with the problem of health in relation to occupation. To meet its own responsibilities, and to assist and cooperate with provincial authorities in setting up their own industrial hygiene services, the department trained and lent to each of the provincial departments of health in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and to the workmen's compensation board in British Columbia, a competent industrial hygiene chemist. By December, 1945, the provincial authorities in Manitoba and British Columbia had completed their own industrial hygiene divisions and assumed full administrative and financial responsibility for these. However, they ask that this department supply technical and consultant assistance as and when certain complex problems might arise. We still have industrial hygiene chemists in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan and, later in the year, it is proposed to lend another to the department of health of Alberta to assist in a survey of occupational health hazards in the industries of that province.

In this field of activity there has been an enormous increase in interest since the outbreak of the war, owing partly to the fact

that the federal government required it of industry which was doing war work, but also to the interest on the part of industry itself and of all workers, working together to improve industrial standards. Further, during the war a number of processes were developed including those using solvents, acetone paints and so on, to which new industrial hazards were attached. In all these fields we did what we could during the war, but it has been found that the interest and the need for the work have since continued. It is carried on in close cooperation with the provinces. With regard to carbon monoxide poisoning and some conditions in connection with mining, work is done in other branches of the government, but very largely by the provinces themselves. I hope I have indicated to the hon. member for Davenport and others who have supported the vote that it has been done in the sensible way, namely, in cooperation with the provinces and with industry, and that it is useful work.

Mr. MacNICOL: On a former occasion one of the answers which the minister gave was that part of the vote was to take care of the health of the workers in industrial war plants operated under the government. I believe also that something was said about preserving the health of the northwest territories. That would be purely under his department.

Mr. CLAXTON: This vote is limited to matters connected with industry.

Mr. MacNICOL: I know, but what about the mines? Do they not come under this? There is no government up there.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

212. Civil service health division (including medical investigation division), \$180,078.

Mr. MERRITT: There is a publicity item there.

Mr. CLAXTON: There was an expenditure of \$230 in 1945-46 on the preparation of a booklet giving information to civil servants regarding services that will be furnished to them when this service is established.

Mr. FLEMING: I thought the service was established last year?

Mr. CLAXTON: It was announced in May, 1945. Since then, it has been acquiring staff and rendering partial but not full service such as will be given as soon as we can get doctors, staffs and space necessary to give a full service. The estimate here for publicity is designed to cover health education work in connection with the civil service either through films, lectures, pamphlets or posters.