

the director of health branch assists. Besides that, the council is in communication with provincial bodies at all times. It has undertaken services for the provinces and for the municipalities, and its services have also been made use of in an advisory capacity by provinces and by municipalities.

In respect to other grants to the council, I understand that the life insurance companies of Canada consider its work of such importance that they make to the organization a grant of some \$8,000 per year. From what I can gather since I came into this department, this is possibly one of the most important organizations allied to it. It carries on a great deal of work and has always had the support of all governments which have succeeded one another since it first started its work.

Mr. STEWART: I thank the minister for his explanation, which entirely confirms my impression of the work of this organization. I can think of no other service more important, and I am glad to know that as time goes along its relations are being extended and brought into harmony with the work of the provincial authorities. I think the vote is for a very deserving object and I have no opposition to its being passed.

Mr. DOUGLAS: Whatever contacts I have had with social service workers have shown me that they speak very highly of the work being done by this organization. It is a work of correlation and information is disseminated among those municipalities seeking to set up local nursing services, particularly in connection with the schools. This work has been most invaluable. It must be remembered that Canada is somewhat backward as far as social service is concerned. We are among the three worst of the civilized nations of the world as far as maternity deaths and infantile mortality are concerned. This item is quite small in view of the stupendous amount of work carried on by this organization, and I think the minister should take this up with the government. We see millions of dollars being voted for the militia and for the royal air force while only a few paltry dollars are voted to take care of our maternity death rate and infantile mortality problems. The thing is ridiculous. These people are doing an excellent service and the problem should be how to expand this vote rather than how to curtail it.

Item agreed to.

Grant to the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, \$10,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the minister will permit me to make one or two observations with respect to this and the next item. As is

well known, this is a grant to an organization which for a long time was presided over by the most distinguished authority there was in Canada. This organization has been aided largely by a grant from a trust fund founded in the name of the mother of John D. Rockefeller, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. The difficulty in connection with this work is that the citizens of the different provinces are now being compelled to pay large sums in taxation. I had made up my mind, for whatever it might be worth, that if a grant was to be given in connection with these matters it should be made to the provinces and not to the organizations, such as I have mentioned.

The organization concerned with this vote and that concerned with the following vote are doing a certain amount of propaganda work which is overlapped by the work of the provinces. Only the other day, the governor general pointed out in Montreal that his experience had been that great dangers arose from overlapping. The western provinces in particular have been carrying on an advanced work in this regard and the citizens of those provinces have to pay taxes so that the work can be carried out. As I said before, I had made up my mind that if we had to provide grants, we would give them to the provinces on some basis of fair distribution in order that those provinces which had the responsibility might have additional funds to enable them to do the work. My observation has been that the provinces are cramped very much in their work because of financial limitations.

We have one obligation cast upon us in the Victorian Order of Nurses. As hon. members know, this was founded by Lady Aberdeen and the country has given it assistance from the day of its establishment, as I hope it will long continue to do. Another obligation is placed upon us by article 25 of the peace treaty which reads:

The members of the league agree to encourage and promote the establishment and cooperation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

There was difficulty in determining what national organization would be selected, but finally the Red Cross was selected. The work of the Red Cross has been most conducive to two things. First, there has been an improvement in the relations between children of the various countries of the world, and, second, there has been a steady improvement in health instruction. It would prove amaz-