

would not be so ready to criticize. Before they were selected they were approved both by provincial and local committees. On each committee were representatives of the various organizations I mentioned this afternoon.

Something has been said about cost. It is not anticipated at the present time, on the basis of cost as at present calculated, that the mother will pay more than a third of the total cost of the undertaking. With respect to the suggestion that fifty per cent of the mothers were turned down, I would ask the hon. member to give me the details, so that I may make an investigation.

Mention was made of Montreal. In that city we have I believe one of the most eminent men in this work charged with the duty of supervising and assisting in the planning of these nurseries. I refer to Doctor Lalonde, who is not only a medical doctor but is also a specialist in this type of welfare work. I do not believe that in these initial stages we can be accused of not at least trying to lay a good foundation for this form of governmental activity.

In respect of education along this line, may I point out that I have visited other countries where this type of service has been in operation. I well remember being in Russia a few years ago. What I have to say is not said in any spirit of criticism. From some of the pictures I had seen before going there I thought only a few of the children of the working classes would be found outside of institutional care in the day time. There can be no doubt of the vast range of occupations in which Russian women engage. Their work is somewhat different and covers a greater range than that in which women on the north American continent engage. We may call the state of women on this continent one of emancipation, if we wish, but I am afraid that the vocations in which some Russian women are engaged would startle some of our Canadian women, and also those in the United States. It was clear over there that they were moving, perhaps in a small way at first, toward care of the children of women engaged in industry. I thought children in Russia would be dressed somewhat in the same fashion as those in North America are dressed in the summer months. I noticed however that many of the peasant women—and I do not say this disrespectfully—had their children clothed just the same as they had been clothed many years before.

I think the hon. member has not been altogether fair in her criticism in the steps we are taking to establish at least some degree of responsibility on the part of the state in connection with women employed

in industry, or women who find it necessary to get others to care for their children during hours of employment.

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended taking part in this discussion, but as chairman of a local board of health, and as one who brought Doctor Hastings into a modern health department in Toronto, I must say that this policy of handing money to the provinces is a bad one. That seems to be a very popular procedure in connection with many matters which have been brought before the house in war-time. There seems to be a general tendency to give everything to the provinces. You, Mr. Chairman, come from a district in which a famous physician in child welfare has practised. I refer to the late Doctor Dafoe, whose younger brother was only recently promoted to the head of the obstetrics and diseases of women branch of the university of Toronto. I should hope the Minister of Pensions and National Health, who is in his seat, might see that some national recognition is given to the late Doctor Dafoe for what he has done for the people of Canada and the medical world, and particularly the mothers and children.

This problem is rural, suburban and urban. Why should we adopt something like this and turn the money over to the provinces to administer? We are being asked to vote only \$120,000 as payments to the provinces in connection with organizing and operating day nurseries and like facilities. But that is only \$120,000 out of \$21,000,000, and the result will be that some places will get help and others will not—rural, suburban and urban. This money should be turned over to the municipalities instead of to the provinces.

I should like to refer to what has been done in Toronto and Hamilton. The minister will be more conversant with the latter district, but in both these centres the school boards and boards of health have done a considerable amount of work along these lines. At considerable cost to the city the boards of education and of health have established nurseries and have staffed them with the proper nurses and doctors. This has proved a blessing to the community.

If this were to be started over again, I would not go to the universities for assistance. I would investigate what has been done in the matter of day nurseries in Toronto since 1907. This work was started then and it has spread across the country. I brought this matter to the attention of the house in 1940 when I quoted the British *Hansard*. Reference was made there to the midland counties where they were transporting people from one