

under the jurisdiction of the medical department were put into one department. What is the condition at the present time? Under the Department of Veterans' Affairs the treatment of returned men will be taken care of. Under the Indian affairs branch, for the treatment of those people who are wards of this country and with whom we have both contractual and moral obligations to look after their education and health, we have a separate division in the Department of Mines and Resources which has to do with the treatment of 125,000 Indians in Canada.

There is delegated to this department which will be set up the supervision and treatment of those who will be in the marine hospitals. Therefore you have three separate divisions of medical treatment under three different departments. From the point of view of economy and efficiency, having regard to the reduced number of medical men who are practising to-day, it would be much better if all the medical services came under one department. According to the statement of the Prime Minister old age pensions, pensions for the blind, physical fitness and family allowances will be transferred to this department. I submit that they should come under the Department of Pensions because they are exactly what they say they are, pensions for the old people, pensions for the blind and family allowances, which is to be a type of pension. If the department were called the Department of Pensions and looked after pensions which go to veterans, pensions which go to the blind, pensions which go to the old people and family allowances, which are a type of pension to people having big families, then you would have concentrated in one department and under one administrative unit all those particular branches that have to do with the administration of pensions. However, we cannot obtain all these things in a day. But in view of the fact that because of a comprehensive study and review of the situation with reference to medical treatment there has been recommended by the assignment and procurement board an amalgamation of the medical services of the three branches of the armed forces, I am hopeful that some day it will come about that all the medical services with which the federal department has anything to do will be concentrated in one particular department.

This new branch of the service under a minister who will look after the health, social security and welfare of the people of Canada, has a splendid opportunity to do an extensive piece of work if it fulfils the objective which is set for it. The health of the people of Canada should be of primary importance

because, after all, it is people who count in this world, not material things. The federal government has not given the health of the people that consideration which is their due and to which they have been entitled throughout the years. I was glad to hear the Prime Minister say to-day that more attention will be given to the health of the people of Canada and that it was a matter of some concern to the government.

If we look at the record we find that the Department of Agriculture has spent many times more money on the health of animals, under the health of animals branch, than has been spent by this government on the health of the people. That is because due importance has not been given to the value of people as an asset to the country. Much work has been done, and there has been some measure of cooperation between the national health department and the provincial departments of health, but there has not been throughout the years that spirit of cooperation between the provincial departments of health and the federal department of health that there should have been. I place no blame for that upon the minister because his function has been one of administration, but I have repeatedly heard it said by men high up in the health departments of the different provinces that they did not often get that degree of cooperation or coordination of effort in health matters which they might reasonably expect between their various departments and the national department at Ottawa. I hope that that will be changed, because, after all, these problems are not provincial problems; they are not federal problems; they are a common problem; they are the problem of all the governments in this country whether they be municipal, provincial or federal. And the problems which confront the people can be solved only by the closest type of coordination and cooperation.

I do not think that throughout the years any science has made greater advances than has the science of medicine. The expectancy of life of the people has been materially increased within the last twenty or thirty years. The matter of prevention has played a very important and prominent part and has given splendid results. The greatest difficulty has been the inability of people to take advantage of the services which could be theirs if they were in an economic position to take advantage of them. The one great step which is being made to bring that about is the aiming at social security for our people and the adopting of the proposed health insurance in which we should have the full cooperation of federal and provincial governments if