

action in which the public must be adequately informed. The response of the public in its purchases of Christmas Seals and donations indicates its desire to further the work of the association. If crippling disease, let it be TB or anything else, is not checked and eradicated or brought to the lowest possible minimum, what avails the efforts of rehabilitation? Public health must be in the forefront of reconstruction.

The appointment of a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Vardy, Mr. Crummey and Mr. Roberts was made to draft a report on welfare. Their report was considered by the whole Committee and the report as amended forms part of the report now before you. The hope is that able-bodied relief, except for isolated cases, will soon be a thing of the past, and that in its place the government will provide public works or some other scheme whereby the needs of the people who have suffered owing to lack of sufficient income may be met. It is to be hoped that soon the government will be able to reduce the age limit at which an old age pension may be obtained.

The splendid work done by Dr. Pottle and the staff under him is included in the welfare report. The boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and monies invested in their welfare will pay real dividends in the future.

Under section 6 you will find a section devoted to veterans' affairs. It is not saying too much when we say that everything possible should be done on behalf of those who answered the call of king and country. We consider that labour affairs should be studied by a select committee of this Convention and while the delegations are absent visiting England, and perhaps Ottawa if one goes there, it might be a good time if those available in St. John's, and who do not intend to return home, could be appointed to study this matter.

The people of Newfoundland deserve the very best possible in the way of medical services. Who is going to say that anything less than the best is good enough for our people? We are dealing with the greatest asset that Newfoundland possesses when we are dealing with the people, greater than the material assets, for it is a spiritual one. While poverty and disease lurk in our midst it is our duty to do our utmost to ascertain the underlying causes and see that they are removed. In building

a strong and lasting society the deadly forces which strike at the roots of society and sap the foundations of national well-being will have to be attacked, no matter how deeply entrenched they may be before ultimate recovery can be hoped for or real progress be attained.

**Mr. Burry** Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the members to the fact that there is one unfortunate omission in the first page in the list of names. To that should be added the name of the Hon. Mr. Quinton. The Committee feels that your predecessor, Mr. Justice Fox, in the selection of the convenor for this Committee made a very wise choice. Mr. Ashbourne, with his thoroughness and good spirit and persistent energy, kept us plugging at this work since last fall until 5 o'clock on Saturday last. We were able to have 48 main committee meetings, besides several subcommittee meetings, which meant at least 103 hours work on this report. I would also point out that the few references and quotations in this report coming from the interviews are not an indication of the value we have placed upon the interviews. We feel that the interviews with the various doctors, heads of departments, etc., were very valuable.

We were impressed last fall with the inadequacy of our equipment to cope with this problem, and we thought that the best way was to study the problem of public health and welfare with men who knew more about it than we did. We looked upon our interviews as study classes. We placed a great value upon the knowledge that was imparted to us by these men and two ladies who came before us. We recall very vividly the meeting that we had with the Commissioner, Hon. John C. Puddester, and how he outlined the work of his department and the problems that he had to face, and how it grew up under the needs of wartime. We also remember the studies upon TB and the incidence of TB in Newfoundland and Labrador under Dr. McGrath and Dr. Peters and Mr. Davis....

*[The Secretary read from the report]*<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Ashbourne** Is there any member who wishes to get further information about the section which has just been read? If not we will pass on to the next section. The report is quite lengthy, and opportunity will be given later for members to debate the report.

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:255.