

getting \$18 and if his widow did not apply for the old age pension within six months she did not get it. She has to apply within six months from the death of her husband to get it.

Mr. Fudge In the case to which I referred, this widow, I don't think her husband had a pension, was seeking the widow's mite, but because in the opinion of the relieving officer her son could support her, which I think was incorrect, I took the matter up myself here in St. John's, and settled the matter satisfactorily for the lady, but no thanks to the relieving officer.

[The Secretary read the next section on Child Welfare and War Pensions. The committee then adjourned until 8 pm]

Mr. Burry Before the debate begins, I would like to point out an error in the *Daily News* report of yesterday afternoon's debate. I refer to what was said by Mr. Smallwood when he was speaking of the infant mortality rate in Labrador. As you will recall he pointed out that there were several districts in Newfoundland and Labrador which had a high rate, other districts had a low rate. He mentioned one district where medical services were not up to the highest and yet that district had a very low infant mortality. He said there was a member in the Convention representing that district. Apparently the reporter concluded that that district was Labrador. He refers to it in the write-up: "In Labrador where the infant mortality is lowest, medical facilities are almost nil." There are two errors. The district where the infant mortality rate is lowest is not Labrador — I wish it were. Also, describing the medical services in Labrador as almost nil is just not the way to describe them. I do not want to give you the impression that we are satisfied in Labrador with the medical services we have. I do not suppose any part of the island is satisfied. But we do have medical services. As you will recall, it was pointed out that there are three hospitals; we have a motor ship travelling up and down the coast during the summer. We have a nursing station at Forteau, there was a new institution put up there last year. Some of our people are also in close proximity to the RCAF in Goose Bay and we get medical services from these people, and supplies too. Missionaries in the north, while not graduate doctors, have some training along those lines and have given good service. All in all, our medical services are not too bad in Labrador. I would like

to point that out because I am sure that the reporter probably misunderstood Mr. Smallwood when he made that statement. I am sure he will be happy to make a correction in the interest of keeping the record straight.

Mr. Chairman The sections read this afternoon are now open for debate.

Mr. Smallwood The only business is the debate of the report?

Mr. Chairman Yes.

Mr. Vardy Mr. Chairman, as a member who signed this report, and more particularly as chairman of the sub-committee responsible for the welfare section, I can do no other than agree that this gives you the picture as presented to us, and we have endeavoured to make the comments necessary to give the country our unbiased views regarding whether or not many of these huge expenditures are fairly or equally made, considering not only the peculiar wishes of the ex-serviceman or other applicant, but the ability of our purse to undertake such lavish commitments on these doubtful schemes.

Let us take the report section by section. In the health section we find the department has done an enormous amount of good by bringing the total number of hospitals in this country to 39 plus nine nursing stations. The General Hospital is now one of the best in North America, both as to building, equipment and skill. There is a shortage of nurses, due partly to so many of our girls joining the Canadian services or obtaining more remunerative employment elsewhere, but in the main because of the refusal of the department to step up the beginner's salary in proportion to the trained personnel or the higher income brackets.

It means a real sacrifice today for a girl to spend three years in training, which in reality is three years hard work and not going to school as some would suggest. Owing to the serious dearth of trained nurses, instead of being in a lecture-room they are almost continually doing full-time duty for 12 hours a day or night. They are trying to study when they should be resting. I realise this is unavoidable for the present, and will be for many years to come unless those responsible learn the definition of justice, and face the undeniable realisation that we are living in an age of social reform when every labourer is worthy of his or her just and reasonable hire.

The cottage hospitals are a grand thing if we