

had not received any on return. There may be extenuating circumstances where compassionate allowances would have had to be made, but the whole ex-serviceman's school of thought is broad along these lines and no unjust criticisms would have been offered for any such action.

Mr. Smallwood I am not going to delay the House, but before this report passes the committee of the whole, I think it is only fair to say a word or two about it. I think it is also only fair to say a word or two about the business of the Department of Public Health and Welfare. This Convention cannot possibly do its work without taking very close account of this department. They are spending \$6 million a year. The Committee is of the unanimous opinion that in the years to come they will have to go on spending \$6 million a year, at least.

It is pointed out by the Committee that although certain items of expense in the Department of Public Health and Welfare may come down because the value of the dollar may go up — the same amount of money will buy more — on that account the cost of running the department may fall. Although that is true on the one hand, on the other hand the new extensions and new institutions that the department is putting in for the next year or two will drive the cost of running these institutions up again. The additional cost will equal the saving they may make on the purchases of supplies and materials in the public institutions. So for that reason, the Committee is unanimous in the opinion that the future government of Newfoundland, whatever that government may be, had just as well face up to it that it is going to require at least \$6 million dollars a year to run the Department of Public Health and Welfare, not counting what used to be called dole in this country, but is now known as able-bodied relief; we have today practically none — none worth speaking of. If we should have it in the next few years, then the cost of able-bodied relief must be tacked on to that \$6 million.

Now, Mr. Chairman, speaking for myself and not for the Committee, I have to say that the growth of the public services of this country insofar as they have to do with social and welfare services is a thing that needed to be done. I feel like giving the Commission of Government praise.... In health and welfare, especially in health, they do deserve praise. I think the people

will think better of us if we give them the credit due them and the people will then be more likely to pay attention when we knock them where they should be knocked.

As Major Cashin has said, they have gone from 500 employees of all kinds 12 years ago to 1,400 today. They have gone from \$2.75 million a year to \$6 million today. Since 1934 they have spent \$45 million in that one department. \$18 million of that was spent on public relief — not dole, not able-bodied relief, but all forms of public relief. The second largest item of expenditure since 1934 is \$7.5 million in salaries; the third largest was pensions, principally for World War I — \$7.5 millions in 13 years. Fourth is the same amount and is for maintenance of their own hospitals — \$6 million, not counting salaries. That was for drugs, food and equipment. Then they spent \$1 million since 1934 to help out privately-owned hospitals. Then they spent \$500,000 in those 13 years to help out the orphanages. That brings you up to \$33 million. The remainder comes under various headings. On top of that they are going to spend \$6.5 million in the next year or two: \$250,000 on the General Hospital; \$2.5 million to build a practically new mental hospital; \$200,000 for a new home for nurses; \$750,000 to build a home for the aged and infirm; \$500,000 to build seven new cottage hospitals; \$2.5 million to build a new sanatorium on the west coast. When the new west coast sanatorium is built, even though they have the old one on Topsail Road and the new one is opened, all the doctors who are authorities on TB who came before us agreed that there will still be a need for more. When these new institutions are built, it is going to run it up \$1.25 million extra expenditure over and above the \$6 million a year they are spending today. Let the Committee say, and I agree, that the government is doing right in introducing and expanding these social services and they must go further.

I suggest to Major Cashin, who has one of the most onerous and responsible jobs as chairman of the Finance Committee, that if I were here in opposition and Major Cashin was standing over there as Minister of Finance, I would plead with him to put down at least \$6 million dollars for this social service and social welfare vote in that department; not counting what he would have to put down for dole, if, God forbid, there should be