

given out in round numbers. The whole country would want to know what was spent for provisions; what was spent for salaries and what for fuel and light.

Mr. Chairman The exception proves the rule. If the Convention desires these figures to be read, we shall read them.

Mr. Starkes I understand an old age pensioner is supposed to be 75 years of age before he goes on the list as a pensioner?

Mr. Ashbourne That is so.

Mr. Starkes A man who raised a family of eight children — three of them might have lost their lives in the war and the others married, with families. The old age pensioner of 75 or 80 might have \$100 in the bank and might be living with a married son. Is it true he is not allowed to get his pension, seeing he has \$100 to pay for his funeral? When is a man entitled to that pension? What are the conditions after he is 75 years of age?

Mr. Ashbourne This matter of old age pensions is listed under the section on welfare which we have not yet come to. There are certain regulations under which old age pensions are granted. It is not everyone who attains the age of 75 years that can send in to the government and get his cheque. He is supposed to be pretty much in need of the old age pension. Still, he does not have to be in destitute circumstances. Up to quite recently, I think, the man was allowed to have \$250 in the bank if he belonged to the outports. He could have a somewhat larger figure, \$400, in St. John's. Although he had that amount in the bank, if the relieving officer, after investigation of his circumstances, approved of his application, the old age pension could be granted. I believe it is now \$400 in the outports. Naturally an aged person who had worked hard in the fishing boat and on the land and had attained the ripe old age of 75, should not have to be penniless before he could get the pension. I do not think a man with \$100 would have any difficulty in getting an old age pension.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Vardy made a very good point. Your reply, Mr. Ashbourne if I may be bold enough to say it, was very good. There are five or six pages, masses of figures showing the money spent the last 13 years by that department. It is a pity the whole country could not be here with the figures in front of them, so they could

follow them. I do not think it would be any harm just to take one year, the year ending today. On salaries: doctors, nurses, clerical — 1,374 employees \$1.25 million. There were other large amounts. Next largest is assistance to indigents, \$1 million. Next largest amount for the year, war pensions, \$750,000; next largest amount is nearly \$500,000 for widows, orphans and infirm (sick people); next largest amount is maintenance of hospitals and institutions \$1,100,000. Another large one is hospital grants; \$150,000; grants given to orphanages, \$41,000. Local councils — local town councils — \$200,000 for the year. For the ambulances here in the city, \$25,000. For the year they spent \$25,000 on telegrams. Travelling expenses for employees, \$36,000. All that and a few other items thrown in comes to \$6 million. I think the country ought to know that. That is roughly how it is made up year by year.

Mr. Newell I think when we drew up this table we felt that it was something the members would study at their leisure. Therefore we did not draw the conclusions. Two of the largest amounts spent have been on salaries and maintenance of institutions. Salaries are just about eight times what they were in 1934-35 — the total spent, not the individual salaries. The same is true of hospitals and other institutions. Approximately eight times. What I was going to suggest is, that our report is in two sections — public health as read and public welfare which we are about to read. The figures in between are applicable to both. These figures will have more meaning if they were taken up after having read the welfare section. There are things in the welfare which might be asked about here now.

Mr. Starkes \$1,100,000 — what was that spent for? Is that what was once called dole? Was \$1 million in dole given out this year?

Mr. Ashbourne I have a breakdown of that. But first I would like to answer your enquiry about old age pensions. An old age pensioner is eligible in the city of St. John's if the applicant is of the age of 75 years and is in receipt of less than \$40 a month or less than \$600 capital. Outports: he is eligible if in receipt of less than \$20 a month or less than \$400 capital. [*See next page*]

Mr. Starkes Could you give us the exact figures paid out in dole?

Mr. Ashbourne That is the total of relief accounts, including sick people — \$803,450. You