

had a population of five or ten million people to support them. They are giving splendid service. I will say reasonably commensurate with the cost of operating, in some respects inadequate but in every way out of proportion to our capacity to pay. We have them now and are building more, but with our very scattered population the most we can afford for many years to come is an increase in our doctors and nursing services throughout the country. What we need most is a sound consciousness of the basic factors of our real problem. Spend half the money we are spending on hospitals, Marklands, boglands, Humber Valley projects and other crazy schemes, on subsidising boat building, a bonus to men who are farm-minded for clearing their own land, of say \$100 an acre, and in two years the country will have several thousand more engaged in each of these occupations and will be \$4 million better off than we are today, instead of spending to create huge insurmountable problems for future governments and generations unborn.

The "Impact Upon Disease" has been tackled seriously and the department deserves commendations for their efforts in this direction. But the lack of statistics is inexcusable when the whole country knows this division was amply staffed to keep them. It is a hopeful sign to find that tuberculosis is on the decrease and it is common knowledge that the Dominions Office has always taken a serious view of the effect of this dread disease upon our people. The noteworthy contribution of the TB Association¹ is evidence of our deep consciousness of our responsibility as citizens. The work of the Division of Visual Education as a means of combating this silent menace will contribute in no small way toward checking at the source the unnecessary spreading of the disease. We have given due credit for what has been done but we cannot overlook the cost. The amount of \$6 million plus the Public Works expenditure for the department is a terrific burden for this little country to carry. In fact under normal conditions we cannot hope to survive under such a load.

In spite of what has been said on the favourable side of the balance sheet, the question the whole country is asking is, "Are we getting fair value for the money spent? And can we get as good or better value for the same or less

money?" In my checking of the various statistics, and observations through the various departments and institutions, my conclusions are that this can be done, but not while under the control of unscrupulous individuals whose political records are black chapters in this country and who should never have been put in positions of trust, but who in my opinion acquired the position through a betrayal of the people's trust. Any Commissioner who would knowingly withhold four days pension or any part of it belonging to the war veterans of this country is not fit to hold this office, and in my opinion, and I have good evidence on this, it would never have been paid had it not been for pressure brought upon him from the Auditor-General. It has been stated that certain investigations are in progress; these have been in progress for several years, and in my opinion will still be in progress when the Convention dies, and in the interval between then and a general election they will have a grand opportunity to cover up their dirty tracks.

If the Dominions Office had wanted a fair, true picture of what has been happening in this country they should have recalled the Commission, and appointed a provisional government with the understanding that it held office only until Newfoundland decided on her future form of government. It is no use denying we have been handicapped for information from some quarters, and that some received has not been authentic. When we rechecked we found the figures were questionable.

The veterans' section of the report gives the people of this country the most disgraceful picture they were ever asked to view. Those responsible for the first scheme, which I am informed has been changed six times, must be mentally unbalanced and in any case cannot know the definition of justice. The figures before you are self-explanatory and speak for themselves. I feel it my bounden duty to appeal to the Commissioner for Home Affairs to cease further action under this senseless scheme at once, and if it has been modified or changed six times, in the name of justice and the veterans frame a scheme immediately on true democratic principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. We did not expect any special privileges when we went over, we would all have been satisfied if we

¹Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association founded by St. John's Rotary Club, 1942.