

Mr. Hollett In that connection, I would like to point out that during the past four years it has cost the country \$45,000 to send a nurse on the southwest coast. Whether that is right or not, I do not know. I am wondering if the Committee enquired into that?

Mr. Hillier I think the point is the ship brings patients from the various places to the hospital, accompanied by a nurse. She may have been instrumental in saving a number of lives. If she has done that it would not have been a waste. Probably she has been giving better service than we know. I do not know much about the service.

Mr. Hollett I am asking the Committee to give us some information about it.

Mr. Banfield There have been periods of time, longer than a week, when that ship was without a nurse. I know what the expenditure is; whether it is justifiable to the taxpayers of the country, I do not know.

Mr. Burry I telephoned Mr. Crummey and he told me the ship has a nurse continuously except when they have a change-over and that is a period of a week or longer.

Mr. Hollett What area does that ship cover?

Mr. Burry I do not know the coast very well, perhaps Mr. Banfield might be able to answer that.

Mr. Harrington On that matter of the *Lady Anderson*, it is only fair to the Convention to point out, as far as I could gather from the interviews, that there is a difference of opinion in the department as to the value of the ship. As far as territory is concerned, actually when she went into service she covered part of the southwest coast, Burgeo to Hermitage. Now she is on the Fortune Bay run. The point should be made clear as to what her real value is. If she has saved one or two lives, her services are worth that.

[The Secretary read the next section, on Welfare]¹

Mr. Cashin On page 4, what does that mean, "special orders (nourishment) \$10 per month per head for very needy cases?"

Mr. Chairman That is for sick people.

Mr. Cashin I have heard some peculiar remarks regarding this "nourishment".

Mr. Smallwood Does not that refer to special amounts given over and above the regular amount of dole? There are some persons who are

sick and need special nourishment.

Mr. Ashbourne That is given on a doctor's order — milk, eggs, soup and other things for people in delicate health, to build up their bodies.

Mr. Vardy Under this \$10 order they get special orders for milk and other food — so many milk tickets; order on the butchers; and various other items, including fruit.

Mr. Fudge I wonder if the people in my district get those milk tickets, fruit and fresh meat? "Orders on the butcher" — where do they get that?

Mr. Starkes I think they get it in all districts.

Mr. Ashbourne In reply to Mr. Fudge, I have here a circular signed by Dr. McGrath from the department to all doctors, district nurses and relieving officers:

I am directed by the Commissioner of Public Health and Welfare to give you a ruling in respect of the policy of the department for the issuing of special food orders...special food orders were designed for tuberculosis; following operations and childbirth. This nourishment is not especially intended for chronic cases, such cases should be referred to the relieving officer....

Mr. Cashin I wonder if Mr. Ashbourne could try and get a statement from the department as to the total amount paid last year under the special nourishment orders of \$10; and could you give us a statement how much was paid in each district under that heading, in goods or in cash?

Mr. Ashbourne I will try and get that.

Mr. Fudge I note there that the relief in the outports is \$5 per head; special nourishment \$7.50; in St. John's, \$11.25 and \$10 per head. I wonder why the difference. I doubt if some of the outports I know get either \$7.50 or \$5.

Mr. Ashbourne That was \$7.50 in 1943 — they get \$10 now.

Mr. Fudge I doubt if some of those people get \$10 in the outports. I have in mind one or two places, and according to what I can gather they have not gotten it. It largely depends on the relieving officer. However, I would be pleased indeed if any of those people who have to apply to the relieving officer in the district of Humber and who have not gotten this special \$10, would wire me collect tomorrow, so we can get a true picture. It depends upon the relieving officer as to what an individual gets — if the relieving

¹Volume II:273.