

now of any benefits. Finally they were informed the scheme had been changed and they were going to be given benefits under the land clearing scheme. I know a number of men in the merchant navy who, with this understanding, spent the last cent they had cutting down brush, made preparations for tractors to come in and clear the land; and during the time they were doing this work, trying to take advantage of these benefits, the scheme was changed and the merchant navy men and the tug service men who landed the troops in France for the invasion, these men were deprived of all benefits except under the fishery assistance scheme. Some of these men got as low as \$100 to \$140. One man told me he could qualify for \$140, and he was a married man who left his family to go over there to serve.

The unemployment scheme is made to suit each individual case. I was told they regarded it as compassionate allowance. If a person happens to come in and is hard up they will give him the amount of unemployment benefit.

In reference to the questions asked by Mr. Butt and Mr. Newell in connection with the Sanatorium, I do know for a fact that when each case is regarded as cured and the patient returns home, they give the patient a form to report periodically, and they make a special effort to get these people to come in at certain intervals for X-ray or check up. Eventually when cured, they give them a certificate to that effect. They do try to keep contact with each case as it is discharged from the institution.

**Mr. McCarthy** In spite of all that Mr. Vardy has said he has not answered my question, which was if the Committee had inquired as to why the government should make the decision.

**Mr. Vardy** We did make numerous inquiries. We objected from the beginning and the Committee knows I was strong on it. The only answer to these enquiries was that this scheme was framed by the Commissioner for Finance and the Commissioner for Home Affairs. The Director of Civil Re-establishment has the duty to carry out the scheme as far as possible. They have no excuse except that was the decision made by the two Commissioners and they are powerless to change it. We made enquiries in every detail in connection with the scheme. I may say that the Humber Valley scheme started from \$4,000 to \$6,000. I do not think \$4,000 is mentioned in our

report. The first information we had was that it was \$5,000; our final information, which was given to the Agricultural Committee as well, was that it was \$6,000. I am informed on good authority that \$6,000 will not go near re-establishing these men. The vote is \$1.3 million for 300 men.

**Mr. McCarthy** That includes road building, etc.?

**Mr. Vardy** Yes.

**Mr. Hillier** The delegate from St. John's West Extern made reference to the TB Association. In doing so he intimated we had solved some of our own problems. How many branches of the TB Association are in Newfoundland at the present time?

**Mr. Ashbourne** I believe that two branches have already been organised — a branch at Channel and another at Corner Brook. I believe that the formation of a branch at Grand Falls is being proceeded with. These are the only three branches I know of at the moment. At the meeting of the directors of the TB Association, of which I am a director, the matter was discussed and I think that in a great many of the larger outports they would like to have branches and for those who want them there will be a chance for a branch to be formed.

**Mr. Hillier** I think that a branch properly organised and active would solve some of the TB problem.

**Mr. Butt** In fairness to myself, there would seem to be implied that I was criticising the work done at the Sanatorium. I was thinking of the thing pointed out by Mr. Newell, and that is the supplying of proper kinds of work for patients afterwards. That is important....

**Mr. Penney** Speaking briefly on the report I would call attention to page 36, wherein the cost of living index is given from 1 October 1938 to 1 March, 1947, beginning at 100 and ending up 167.6. I would like to know if this cost of living index is really an index of the lift in prices or the cost of things from 1938-47. Many people think costs have lifted three times or more. I was wondering if we could get any information on how the index is made up; and in asking that question I would like to say I agree with other members regarding the very informative report of this Public Health and Welfare Committee....

**Mr. Vardy** Every detail covering the cost of