

increasing at the rate of 2,500 a year. At the present time in Ontario there are 60,000 old age pensioners. Before we applied the principle of old age pensions to Ontario, a survey was made by government officials, and it was shown that the maximum number of pensions sought in Ontario stood at 25,000. When we see the number now given one realizes that it is impossible to have any accurate figures beforehand in connection with the application of social activities.

I believe every citizen in Canada was proud to learn that pensions were to be given to the blind. In Ontario, because of the addition of that group, 3,000 to 4,000 new pensioners were added to the list. I say this was a worthy national investment, and I know there was not a single word of criticism with respect to it from any part of Canada.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BRADETTE: Mr. Speaker, at six o'clock I was stating how appreciative I was of this opportunity to discuss this resolution. I had said that I was not in favour of lowering the present age limit of seventy years until such time as all the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act had been implemented, and for other reasons which I shall enumerate in a few moments. I was also outlining the different social activities of the province of Ontario. Being used in conjunction with the Old Age Pensions Act we have the Parents' Maintenance Act, an act which in my opinion is absolutely impossible of application. There is an old proverb which says that you cannot whip a dog to hunt, and the same thing applies to certain young people who do not want to help their old folks. It is too bad that the fourth commandment cannot be implemented fully, because in keeping this commandment the young people of both sexes would be greatly blessed. However, I must admit that there have come before the tribunals in my section of the country cases where young people have absolutely refused to help their old parents and cannot be compelled by the law to do so.

We have the Mothers' Allowance Act which is functioning well in Ontario. In 1936 there were in the province 11,500 mothers as well as 30,000 children, receiving help under this act. There is also the Neglected Children's Act under which fifty-four children's aid societies operate. These societies are given the power to interfere with the manner in which children are being brought up. Any

[Mr. Bradette.]

one at all familiar with the administration of this act realizes the good that has been accomplished. A total of 23,500 cases were dealt with; 1,000 children were made wards and 850 others were adopted into better families.

We also have the Unmarried Parents' Act, under which 2,500 cases were dealt with last year. The province also maintains three industrial and two training schools where the idea is not to punish but to recreate and send the children back to society after they have mended their ways. This is brought about by providing the proper education in the right environment. I shall not mention the hospitalization which is carried on under provincial administration, the public health work, the tuberculosis sanatoria and the asylums. I believe Ontario was the first province to intimate that it was in favour of the principle of unemployment insurance. As soon as the legislation is passed by the central government, it will be applied in the province.

We do not want to remain in one place; we want to keep moving forward; but in considering these social activities there are always financial responsibilities which must be considered. I shall deal with these in a moment. At this time I should like to compliment the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Miss Macphail) on what she said this afternoon. Before the present old age pension age limit is lowered, I should like to see all those unable to work, through either disability or other causes, receiving sufficient compensation from the government—not to be wards of the government—to make it possible for them at least to keep body and soul together. I believe this was mentioned in the reports issued by the employment commission last year. Any civilized country should find it possible to pension off those who are unable to work and this pension should be granted regardless of age or sex.

I listened attentively this afternoon to the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis). The hon. member referred to the fact that machinery was replacing more and more men. He must believe implicitly in the theories of the technocrats. That statement may be true if applied to a particular industry, and there is no doubt that in the last twenty years many men have been replaced by machinery. The only solution of the problem that this creates is shortening the hours of labour. I well remember the agitation which was carried on in the early days of the silver mining section of Cobalt. I was working with the labour leaders, and I can remember how we used to talk in terms of an eight hour day. Some thought we would never see that in our generation, but to-day