

will be so many matters coming up for consideration then that the conference will not have time to consider in detail a measure of this kind. Apparently this committee is desirous of something to do and is willing to take this matter into consideration, so I think we should let it go to it and see what it can do to prepare this question for the consideration of that conference. I heartily support the resolution.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Wetaskiwin): I am very glad to note the expressions of sympathy just made by hon. gentlemen opposite in regard to this resolution. I merely rise to express the hope that they will not kill it with kindness, because I notice that it is getting towards six o'clock which has sounded the death knell of many an aspiration, so I hope we will save what we have to say until this question comes before the committee.

Mr. M. N. CAMPBELL (Mackenzie): I just wish to add a few words while this question is before the House. I think the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) entirely misunderstands the purpose and intention of this resolution. I do not give it my support on the understanding that it is another means of building up a dole system in this country; my support is given because I believe it will make a dole system unnecessary; I think that is the very intention of the resolution. I understand that if we establish something along the lines suggested by this resolution in Canada, it would be a contributory system. The official figures for Canada and the United States show that about 90 per cent of the men and women who die do not leave a cent behind them, and they have probably had nothing with which to provide for their old age. Under these circumstances it seems to me absolutely necessary to have some kind of an insurance system which will provide for sickness, indigence and possibly unemployment. Unemployment is something that we do not have to consider on the farms, of course; indeed, we are bothered more with over-employment, as the hon. member for Weyburn knows. I would wish, however, to refer particularly to the question of insurance and to say that I think this government might assist in the establishment of some kind of insurance which will lower to some degree at least the cost of protection to-day. I am not criticizing the insurance companies for the enormous profits they have made, because they have done a good service, but at present we who wish to lay something aside for our old age or to

provide for our families in case of our early death, find that we must use the present insurance companies. I think if something were built up by the government on the same line followed by the insurance companies, a contributory system, something in which there would be no profits earned but in which all the receipts would be disbursed to the holders of the policies, we would do more for the people of Canada than we can do in any other way in the line of providing insurance against old age and infirmities.

I have here the last copy of the Canada Year Book; that is, for the year 1925, and I wish to quote a few figures showing the profits earned by our life insurance companies, to show what might be done by a contributory system built up by the government. For the year 1920 our Canadian life insurance companies showed an excess of income over expenditure of almost \$40,000,000; for 1921 the figure was \$47,000,000; for 1922, \$50,000,000; for 1923, \$60,000,000 and for 1924, \$68,000,000 of an actual surplus. If you go over these figures right back to confederation you will find a tremendous surplus every year; in fact during that whole period I think it will be found that only about 50 per cent of the money paid in in premiums is returned to the policy holders or their dependents. I would suggest that if this resolution is sent to the committee they take into consideration some sort of a contributory system, perhaps on the lines of the old age annuities. The hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) might just as well have referred to our old age annuity system as a dole system; I think the committee should have an opportunity to discuss this question and devise some means of meeting the situation that way, therefore I wish to give my support to the resolution.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I think it only proper that someone from this side of the House should have something to say on this resolution. It is not a new resolution as far as I am concerned. I have in my hand a volume of the Hansard of 1921 in which I am recorded as speaking in favour of a resolution of this kind. I do not very often find myself in harmony with the ideas of the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps), I do not think he is very often sound in his ideas, and I am not just sure that I am in harmony with him in the present case. He has in fact not presented any ideas to the House. All he has done has been to present a kind of blanket resolution in which he asks for the appointment of a committee to go in