

Family Allowances

happiness lies in work and thought for others, and not in the searchings after material things and in gainful employment.

I believe the right to possess private property is derived from nature, and not from man, and that the state has no right to abolish it, but can only regulate its use. This burden of \$200,000,000 could be reduced to one-tenth that size, or to \$20,000,000, if we were not to have a large administrative set-up in offices all over this country, and only those who need it were to secure it. All this money could be distributed to the municipalities throughout the provinces to administer on a national standard plan. The work could be conducted by the various welfare organizations already established in the provinces, and by the welfare boards in the municipalities. If this were done we would be able to eliminate much of the burden of debt now imposed on real estate by this enlarging of social services across Canada, and save duplication and waste.

I support what the government has done for this city of Ottawa, because it has followed out a policy dear to the Prime Minister's heart. I do not object to the expenditure of money in Ottawa, and other places doing the same should get the same aid, but I think three or four mills of Ottawa's tax rate could be put on driveway widenings and on the parks system, and to improve housing conditions here. Other cities doing like work get no federal aid. Vast improvements could be made in our social security measures. Possibly the improvement of housing is the key to the whole social security system, since it relates to the health and happiness of the masses. The modern, small house is greatly needed.

In Toronto to-day we need 25,000 of those houses. Less than one per cent of houses are vacant, and I am informed that 600 soldiers could be put out of their homes to-morrow. However, a court order has been issued postponing the evictions. We could accomplish much more in respect of social services, as the British government has done, if we had a proper housing system, with proper fuel and proper transportation, light, power and other civic services.

I have made reference before to a hospital of which members and ministers' families are well aware. I have in mind the Sick Children's hospital of Toronto, and the magnificent work it has done for the poor people in that city and in Ontario. That work has been done through public subscription. True, they do receive a per diem allowance; but the work that hospital is doing for children from all parts of Ontario has resulted in saving the lives of many of those children. That work is done solely by private subscription and the

[Mr. Church.]

aid of a per diem allowance, and with no federal aid whatever. I know the daughter of one hon. member, who sometimes presides in your absence, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Huron-Perth (Mr. Golding), a former mayor, was a nurse in that hospital, and a very fine nurse, too. In its social services scheme the government could give something toward the upkeep of such wonderful places which have brought such joy and health to the sick children of Ontario.

I know that eighty per cent of the patients at the Sick Children's hospital of Toronto do not pay one cent, and the other twenty per cent pay very little. The out-door patients pay practically nothing. As I travel on the street cars I see them going to the hospital to receive treatment. These are largely poor people who cannot afford to pay for it.

As I have said, I believe we could effect a great economy in the operation of this measure, and that we could do it for possibly only one-tenth of the \$200,000,000. I should hope the government would consider these suggestions during the recess of parliament. No doubt the bill will pass, but I have raised these objections because I have all my life supported reasonable, sound services adapted to our circumstances and I have always supported the work of the social services. I am not a mere beginner. I have been in it all my life. I appreciate that much has been done by some of the municipalities and by the provinces along this line. I believe the provinces and municipalities could be linked up into a joint united scheme and could thereby effect great economies, without setting up this great spending department here in Ottawa, and thus remove federal burdens from real estate. We might eliminate some of the abuses in our social system which have crept in during the war, and we would go a long way toward promoting better social conditions for the working classes in this country.

Mr. NICHOLSON: The observations of the hon. member for Davenport and the hon. member for Broadview prompt me to make a few comments. They have referred to the late Mr. Woodsworth, and to the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation in particular. I have no doubt that the hon. members are most generous in their home communities, but the fact remains that they did happen to be in parliament when their party was in office between 1930 and 1935. I do not think that any government ever received a clearer mandate from the people, or that any government has ever had a worse record in dealing with the problems we have been discussing in the last few days.