

matters concerning human life and human happiness that go to the well being of a nation.

I believe someone will have to look after those who suffer serious accidents, and so on. Suppose a family is in receipt of the war veterans' allowance, and a child is seriously injured so that as a result he may become a cripple for life. How in the world can that family provide the necessary medical care and pay for the operation that may be required? If the province is unable to do it, and the municipality is unable to do it, who will do it? I believe we as a dominion must take such matters into our consideration and see to it that such matters receive the necessary attention.

Many thousands of children throughout this country suffer from lack of adequate dental care. Such dental care costs money; it costs two dollars to have a tooth removed. Tens of thousands of people in this country live on budgets so limited that the loss of two dollars becomes a calamity. The head of the household and the mother simply do not know what to do when they have that extra expense to meet. As a result thousands of our children are going about with bad teeth, with unfilled teeth, losing their teeth, losing their health, simply because there is not some way of absorbing that cost.

Thousands of children suffer from poor eyesight. They need optical care, but they dare not have their eyes examined; they are unable to obtain glasses. Then if, having secured glasses, they break them, the result is tragic. I have seen children twelve or thirteen years of age break-down and cry because their glasses were destroyed and they knew they would be unable to get the money with which to have them repaired, and they could not go to school and do their work without them. Of course all these things are a part of human life, but we are getting to an age now when, living in a country like ours, children should not have to cry and be broken-hearted because they happened to break their glasses.

These are all matters which come under this item, which has to do with the health of Canada. If the provinces are unable to take care of these matters the dominion must be prepared to do so. I do not like to take up too much of the time of the committee, but someone has to say these things. I was glad to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Edmonton East; I shall listen to her in future with great attention when she deals with humanitarian topics in this house.

Then there is the matter of food. I do not believe we are taking enough care in that regard. I have spoken rather severely about

these things in this house, and at times I have been accused of being extreme. I am sure if the actual facts were made known my remarks would not be found to be in the least extravagant. It is coming to be recognized more and more that the health and well being, the moral tone, the mental tone and everything else about a human being is determined to a very large extent by the food he eats. I have been making inquiries of some of the good housewives in Ottawa in order to ascertain what they believe would be the cost of adequate food to keep a child in good health. They tell me that they cannot possibly figure out any menu providing the fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and other things required for less than \$2 a week per person. For a family of five this means \$10 a week for food alone, if the children are to be kept in a healthy condition. I am not going to mention clothing, but certainly money will be required for that purpose. Then there is the question of shelter. Hardly anywhere in Canada to-day can anything like an adequate house be procured for less than \$10 a month. Food at \$10 a week means \$40 a month; if you add \$10 for shelter, which does not take into account light, water and fuel, much less the occasional repair of a broken window, you have a total of \$50 a month in absolutely unavoidable expenses.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): If I may interrupt the hon. member for just a second, I would inform him that a conference on nutrition will take place in Ottawa next week. Four surveys have been made already, in Halifax, Quebec, Toronto and Edmonton, and the conference will meet here to consider a campaign of education with reference to the subject the hon. gentleman now is discussing.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is very fine; I rejoice to hear that, and I hope when these committees tell the country what has to be done, that it will be done and that we will not be told that there is no money for it.

I was just going on to say that for this family of five the absolutely unavoidable expenses amount to \$50 a month. Imagine, if you can, how a family of five can get along on the war veterans' allowance of \$40 a month.

An hon. MEMBER: Carried.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Oh, no; it is not carried yet. We still have time to do a good deal of serious thinking. Not very long ago when I condemned the Pension Act, which in a way has to do with war veterans' allowance, I had in mind such conditions as these. We