

as published some years ago in *Current Literature*:

The rights of men are a by-word;
 The bones are not yet dust
 Of those who broke the shackles,
 And the shackles are not yet rust
 Till the masters are forging new ones,
 And coward lips are sealed
 While the code that cost a million lives
 Is step by step repealed.

To-day we are witnessing a new type of society in which very few of us have any very large measure of freedom. I think it was Rabindranath Tagore who said some years ago that chains were none the less real because they were either invisible or golden.

I spoke of the financial condition of the municipalities and provinces of the west. Let me point out how these affect the living condition of many of our people. In the last few days in Winnipeg, my own city, we have had what might be called a doctors' strike. The doctors have refused any longer to give free medical attendance, and they have recently signed this declaration:

I undertake to refuse free medical service in the office, hospital or home to any individual in receipt of relief unless an emergency exists. An emergency is one in which life is in imminent danger and for which immediate action is required. This is to take effect on and after the 15th day of February, 1934, unless the civic and/or municipal authorities concerned have made satisfactory arrangements with our committee.

The secretary explains that even a case of ordinary confinement is not to be regarded as an emergency case, except in the case of hemorrhage or convulsions; only then will the doctor consent to come to the bedside of the patient. I do not propose to discuss the professional ethics involved in this question. I recall that some years ago when there was a strike in Winnipeg and when the milk drivers and some of the members of the fire brigades went on strike, a great cry was raised to heaven and it was said that under no circumstances should milk drivers or fire fighters desert their posts of duty. But now we have the doctors, for their own reasons, and possibly they are justifiable, in order to force an issue, refusing to give medical service to any one on relief. We all know there has been a question as to where the responsibility for giving relief lies, whether with the Dominion government or the provinces or the municipalities, and in what degree each is responsible. First of all, when we thought of relief we thought of food. Then we had to extend it to clothing, and out in our part of the world, where it is cold, we had to extend it to shelter, and even to fuel and

Mr. Woodsworth.]

light, and as these new items have come into view we have found that it is very difficult to get agreement as to who should assume responsibility for these new types of relief.

Now we have hospitalization and medical care. I point out that owing to the practical bankruptcy of many of our municipalities it is next to impossible for them to advance further sums of money for this type of relief. The other day the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden), himself a medical man, raised the question in this house, and the Prime Minister's reply was that he had communicated to the representatives of the medical profession "that there was no reason to believe that the provinces would not discharge their constitutional duties with respect to the health of their citizens." That may be all very well, from a purely constitutional standpoint, but may I say that when there is absolute misery I cannot think that this government or any government is justified in taking such a position as that. If there was a flood, we would not stop to argue whether it was a provincial or federal responsibility to launch rafts and save the citizens; we would go out and pull out of the water the poor fellows who were threatened with being engulfed. And what then shall we say in the case of women who expect in a few days to become mothers, scores of them, who must face that very, very serious crisis in their lives with no hope of obtaining medical assistance unless their case is extreme. I think this is altogether too serious a matter to be allowed to pass unnoticed by this house. I must recall again, those words of Mr. Bennett which have been repeated very often, spoken when he was seeking to become the Prime Minister. He said:

I say to you, my fellow citizens, my fellow Canadians, speaking to the larger audience, I am convinced this problem has now ceased to be local and provincial and has become national in its importance.

The Prime Minister paid a glowing tribute the other day to those to whom honours had been given, and said that some of them were doing work on the pioneer front. I want to say that if these women doing social work should be given honours, much more should help be given to those who are about to give birth to children and who have no one at the present time to look to for assistance. It is not much wonder that large numbers of them to-day are seeking to learn the principles of birth control.

The speech from the throne goes on to say that the "improved world conditions are reflected in Canada by expanding trade, im-