

*Family Allowances*

protection of the working people, the great mass of the people of this country from occupational or other diseases which help to undermine the strength of the nation. If this country is to be what we wish it to be, a country of happy, contented and prosperous people, it will only be by safeguarding the lives and welfare of the many, and by protecting from injustice and ill the homes of the humble in the land.

More statements were made in this House of Commons on January 19, 1911, and appear at pages 2040 and 2041 of *Hansard* for that year.

Mr. COLDWELL: Thirty-three years ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, thirty-three years ago. Perhaps hon. members will be surprised when I read the interruption that occurred when I stopped at where I have stopped to-day. Mr. Northrup, who was then occupying a seat opposite, said:

Would the minister be good enough to state to the house on what grounds he claims this house has any jurisdiction to pass such a measure?

That is exactly the same sort of thing we have been listening to from hon. gentlemen opposite when to-day another great social reform is being placed before this parliament for adoption. I was able to cite the opinion of the justice department which was to the effect that the measure in every way was *intra vires*. Throughout the years, from that time to the present, wherever opportunity has presented itself, the party on this side of the house have sought, to the best of their ability, as occasion has arisen, to further measures with respect to the conservation of human life and welfare. We have time and again proposed and carried measures which to-day are of nation-wide application. I am happy that I have been spared to help to-day to further the enactment of yet another measure which will be one of the most far-reaching ever enacted for the benefit of those in humble circumstances in our land.

My friends of the C.C.F. have also made what I considered extreme and mistaken claims as respects the part they have played in advocating that industry should be made to serve the well-being of society. They have said that they were laughed at when they spoke of industry being carried on for use rather than profit. Well, I do not know who laughed at them.

Mr. COLDWELL: We have been laughed at in this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In this house?

Mr. COLDWELL: Yes.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not for that. There have time and again been extravagant statements made by them which have been laughed at, but I can say that when my hon. friend and some of his friends were in the kindergarten hon. members on this side of the house were proclaiming that industry should be considered as in the nature of social service, and its rewards made proportionate to the service rendered by all the parties to industry.

Mr. COLDWELL: What have you done about it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What have we done? More than any parliament in the world has done. And our advocacy of measure after measure of social reform in the house has been because of our having held that very view.

I mention these things because I feel my friends are being carried away by some of their recent provincial successes, which they hope they may be able to repeat in a wider field.

My hon. friends of the C.C.F. party have also said that they would like to see this measure included as part of a general scheme of social security. Well, if they will read the speech from the throne—or re-read the speech from the throne of last year, and read the speech from the throne of this year they will see there emphasis placed upon the necessity for a nation-wide system of social security, also an enumeration of the measures already enacted toward that end. The speech of this year brings out significantly the fact that the family allowances scheme is one of vast importance in the nation-wide scheme, and one which lies at the root of all social security in this country. I believe it is the very foundation of any nation-wide scheme of social security. The advocacy of a national minimum standard of life which would apply to all has been an objective which has been kept before the house in the course of all social legislation we have brought before it; it is something that has been advocated by the Liberal party for many years.

Perhaps I ought to reply to one or two other words of criticism. Some hon. members have taken exception to the fact that this bill is to come into force on July 1, 1945. There are sound reasons for the date that has been fixed. They have already been given. One of those reasons is that time will be required to make the necessary preparations for the carrying out of the provisions of the measure. It is a far-reaching piece of legislation. No greater misfortune could happen, and no greater threat could be made to its ultimate success than that