

Social Security

certain cases of invalids or incurables come up, for the simple reason that the different municipalities have to contribute a certain percentage, which they cannot do at times.

I know that this measure will involve an expenditure of money by the government when it is placed on the statute books of the country; but if up to this time it has been impossible for the federal government to do that, and if it has been also impossible for some of the provincial governments to do it, I know you will admit with me, Mr. Speaker, that it has also been impossible for some of the municipalities to give the aid which we think should be given to the invalids and to the incurables.

I know that in my riding we have exactly what we have in all of the ridings of the country, namely, certain cases of invalids, most meritorious cases, that cannot be helped because of lack of legislation either in the federal field or in the provincial field. Therefore I know that these people will be greatly comforted today by the speeches which have been made, and especially by the declaration of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin), who has said that a survey is being made at the present time.

Like the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair), I trust that this survey will be expedited. I also associate myself with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Lanark that once this legislation is enacted the first step that should be taken should be that of caring for those who are readily recognized by the layman as being invalids and incurables.

I may be permitted to make a suggestion to the Minister of National Health and Welfare because this legislation, if enacted, will be hard to follow and difficult to apply. There will also be a certain amount of money to be allocated to care for those unfortunate persons. I am wondering, and have been thinking for some time, whether it would not be possible, when the legislation is enacted, to specify that a certain tax—call it an invalid tax if you wish—might be charged at all sporting events that are held throughout the country during the year. I feel that no one who attends those sporting events would object to the payment of five cents or ten cents extra which might be directed toward the assistance given to the invalids and the incurables.

The hon. member for Temiscouata has said that this country has voted a certain amount of money to be devoted to the alleviation of human suffering throughout the world. Perhaps I can associate myself with him to a certain extent and with the sentiments

expressed in the lines of the poet, which most of you know. They are as follows:

We have kind words for strangers
And smiles for the sometimes guest,
But oft for our own, the bitter tone,
Though we love our own the best.

Mr. J. H. Rooney (St. Paul's): I should like to make a few remarks in this debate. I do so because, coming from the city of Toronto, I have often claimed that the riding of St. Paul's is the richest riding in Canada and still the poorest riding in Canada. I believe that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is very sympathetic to this matter. I can say much of what I have seen in the past in the city of Toronto, where I have seen much suffering. If there is any reputation I have in Toronto it is due to the work that my friends and I have done in the past years for the benefit of the poor, the sick and the weak.

In 1932, at a little house in Toronto, four of us sat and we joined together to see what we could do for the poor and the sick. We soon were meeting in the different homes every week in different parts of the riding. I mention that to indicate that what I speak about I know from the practical experience of the work we did during those trying times. I have often said in the past that if someone were lost in the wilds we would never think of the money that we would spend to save that one life. Yet we stand aside, we sit here and talk, and we forget that every day there are people dying, people in different parts of this great country of ours, a country supposed to be one of the wealthiest in the world, who are suffering untold agonies.

I have been censured sometimes for what has been called wholly thinking; but when I came to Ottawa as the member for St. Paul's I came with one idea, and that was that perhaps I could do something for the benefit of mankind. I say that here and now, in this resolution, we have an opportunity to do something for mankind.

Mr. Low: Hear, hear; if we can get a vote, we will.

Mr. Rooney: The resolution refers to:
... the advisability of including in their social security program a system of allowances to every person without any sufficient income or means of support, who, by reason of an injury, accident, congenital infirmity or incurable disease, is at a disadvantage in seeking or obtaining employment, or incapable of providing for his subsistence, and whose age prevents him from benefiting by the social security legislation now in force.

That covers nearly everything. I heard an hon. member opposite say that if we could get to a vote we would accomplish something. Because I am deeply interested in this resolution, and so that I may not be