

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They should have free delivery.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The hon. gentleman may make light of this kind of thing but—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Didn't you ever carry your groceries home? I have lots of times.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Some men may make light of the whole performance—

Mr. MORAND: Stick to the argument; don't broaden your base.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In some cases, it is said, old men up to seventy-eight years of age are compelled to work for their relief and numerous cases have come under notice where men are compelled to work in cold weather without underwear or socks.

Mr. GOTT: They should be drawing old age pensions if they are over seventy.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The communication goes on to say that in some cases men in advanced stages of tuberculosis are being denied medical treatment and are being forced to work for their relief. I quote:

Everyone in receipt of relief is compelled to work for the city at thirty-five cents an hour until the amount of their relief is worked out. The only necessities that are supplied on these relief orders are groceries and fuel and the amount of coal that is allowed for a family—

The communication continues:

There has been no provision made whatever for the supplying of clothing, shoes, medicine, medical services, bedclothing, et cetera, and although we have continually pressed for these things to the city authorities, we have been told by them that the money allocated for relief by the government could not be used for the purchase of these things.

This organization made a partial survey of the district and the following conditions were found in connection with the first 209 families visited:

Total number receiving relief.. . .	1,260
Children going to school.. . . .	280
Children kept from school for lack of clothing.. . . .	100
Number in these homes badly in need of clothing.. . . .	207
Number of families badly in need of bedclothes.. . . .	188
Total amount of relief received by the above 209 families per week.	\$832
Average per family, per week.. . .	3 84
Average per person, per week....	0 66
Average per person, per meal.. . .	0 3½

I do not know whether some of the hon. gentlemen who laugh and talk have ever [Mr. Woodsworth.]

lived on three and one-seventh cents per meal. The letter continues:

At the last meeting of the city council held on February 16, the council decided to suspend all relief work for the month of March.

Mr. YOUNG: Who makes that report?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It was sent to me by the united steelworkers' organization of Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Have you verified it?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But you put it out as the gospel truth.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is signed by M. A. MacKenzie, president, and Joseph Murphy, secretary.

An hon. MEMBER: Did you write and ask for it?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I did not write and ask for it. Are there any more questions?

May I suggest that to a greater or lesser degree this is the position in which thousands of our fellow citizens find themselves to-day. Just before I left my own city to come to Ottawa I was asked to go down to the medical arts building to meet some of the doctors of the city who wished to emphasize the necessity of medical attention being given as a part of relief. There is no doubt that the medical men are giving an immense amount of free service; that is perhaps their duty and responsibility at this time, but this thing has increased to such a volume that it is now utterly impossible for them to cope with it. Many of the younger doctors are simply swamped with this kind of practice. We have admitted the necessity of giving to the people in distress a certain amount of food, clothing, fuel and shelter; it seems to me that it is necessary that we should go a little further and admit frankly the necessity of medical service.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Medical service is given in the province of Ontario.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): My city gives medical service.

Mr. MacMILLAN: It is given in Saskatchewan.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is given free in my city.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: While an hon. member is still on his feet I do not think it is in order for hon. members to interrupt him,