

Those conditions are typical of conditions which have existed and still exist in certain parts of Canada. There is no physical reason and no justification whatever for our people having had to live under the housing conditions which they were forced to endure for at least the last two decades. We had, during peace time at least, all the raw materials to provide the housing our people needed. We had all the bricks, all the lumber, and all the labour that was required, and yet our people were forced to live in one-roomed huts in a country like Canada. That certainly was no compliment to any government that held office during that period.

I come to the fourth requirement which is necessary for any adequate social security measure, namely, medical care. We all know that for at least ten years in Canada many doctors were on relief, while at the same time our people were dying because they had no money to provide themselves with the remedies for all sorts of ailments which arose because they had to live below the level of subsistence. There is no physical reason whatsoever why our people should not have all the medical care they need.

The fifth and last requirement is education. I have not heard any hon. member include education in the field of social security, but I would certainly include it. There is no reason why every citizen of Canada should not be given all the education that we can possibly give him. All education should, in my opinion, be absolutely free. If a young man or a young woman wants to go on through a university, that opportunity should be provided. We must educate our people so that they may enjoy the life to which they are entitled and develop themselves along the lines for which their aptitudes fit them. We must, therefore, see to it that all the people of Canada are provided with an adequate education. In passing, let me say that about a year ago I noticed pictures in the newspapers glorifying the idea that at last Canada was providing an education even for its adult people, and of course it was free. When I saw those pictures in the newspapers I felt ashamed that we should endeavour to pull the wool over the eyes of our people by attempting to prove that we were so progressive because we gave adults an education to which they were really entitled in their teens. That was the time they should have received their education, and that was the time we failed. Now we attempt to cover that up. Certainly we should not advertise it. As a matter of fact, we were priding ourselves on giving adults of forty and fifty years of age an education that they should have had

[Mr. Hlynka.]

long ago. I trust that education will receive the serious consideration of the committee.

I come now to the problem of the aged people. I intend to discuss this matter when the old age pensions estimates are brought down. Even though I wish to devote only a few minutes to the discussion of this problem at the present time, I feel that I cannot do too much to bring it to the attention of the committee which is to be set up.

This is the story of any one hundred young Canadians who, at the age of twenty-five, are strong, healthy and hopeful. Forty years later thirty-six of them are dead; one—only one—is well-to-do; four live comfortably; five are gainfully employed, and fifty-four are entirely dependent upon relatives and friends. In other words, the statistical information which I have been able to obtain shows that over half of every hundred men we have in this country will eventually land in the undignified position of having to beg. That illustrates clearly the fate of many of our men. Let me read at this stage from an editorial which appeared in the Edmonton *Bulletin* of March 12, 1942. The *Bulletin*, one of our Alberta dailies, is one of the most progressive if not the most progressive newspaper in our province, and at all times it has been a champion of the cause of the aged people. Here are a few sentences from this particular editorial:

Canada has neglected the one object which requires more generous treatment than any other.

Canadians lag behind every member of the British commonwealth of nations and behind the United States in providing social security and social justice for our own aged, distressed and worthy pioneers.

It goes on:

At this session of parliament—

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that this was written early in the last session.

—we must add to our present unemployment insurance those further measures of health insurance and an adequate retirement allowance which will give at least thirty dollars a month to our aged people at the age of sixty, without the present cruel and unjust regulations.

The concluding paragraph states:

There is no question of money involved because the old methods of orthodox finance have disappeared in the necessities of war, and properly so.

I believe that we should provide a pension for every man who has reached the age of sixty and whose income is not sufficient to maintain him at a proper standard of living. In addition it is my conviction that our women, the mothers of Canada, should be granted a pension at the age of fifty-five.