

I admit that there are people whose purchasing power is not sufficient to provide for their legitimate needs; in such cases, it behooves governments to step in, and even, under certain circumstances, to force employers to pay more reasonable salaries to their employees. On the other hand, what may be a fair salary for a single man, or a worker with, say two, three or four children, is inadequate for the head of a family of seven, eight or more children, and I consider that governments have the duty of helping the latter through a monthly or yearly allowance in keeping with his responsibilities. But, as I said, I feel that the trouble lies not so much in the lack of purchasing power as in the wrong use that is made of it.

I should like to illustrate my argument by quoting a few examples. Let us consider, for instance, the amount of money spent in Canada each year for alcoholic beverages. Statistics show that in 1937 a sum of \$126,005,833 was spent for liquor. No one will induce me to believe that such a quantity of liquor was consumed by wealthy people only, neither can I be persuaded that it was used by tourists from other countries. Let us admit that, unfortunately, a large percentage of it is consumed by people of moderate means and by the needy. And much could be said about the amounts spent every year in this country for tobacco, and more particularly cigarettes. Statistics show that in 1937 a sum of \$80,703,231 was spent under that item. I could mention a number of other items of expense which are not absolutely necessary and which bring about poverty and hardship.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have too long been listening to those false prophets of better times to come who have prevented us from seeking the evil where it does exist and remedying it in the proper way.

The evil of the present depression lies in ourselves; we should study not merely the unemployment problem but the causes of poverty and the remedy it calls for.

I have read with some interest the four causes of poverty which were enumerated by the hon. member for Lethbridge in his speech on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, as reported on page 72 of the January 17 issue of *Hansard*:

What are the causes of poverty? There are four. The first is debt; the second is taxation; the third is our faulty financial system—faulty either in its essential aspects or in the manner in which it is applied; and the fourth is our faulty method of distribution.

We all know that there are numerous other causes which have not been mentioned and which lead to temporary or permanent pov-

[Mr. Leduc.]

erty; for instance, temporary or chronic diseases; the loss of crops through drought, overabundant humidity or rains, frost, hail, and so on; the destruction of property by fire; labour strikes, etc. Those are real causes of poverty and hardship which governments can neither control nor avert.

However, there are other classes of misfortunes which affect a certain class of society through no fault of theirs; I mean the sick, the infirm, the prematurely aged, the needy mothers and the orphans; and there again, governments are in duty bound to extend their help.

I do say that if we wish to save democracy from a threatened failure, we shall succeed in doing so not in extolling freedom but in educating the whole population, using for that purpose the same methods all over the dominion.

Politicians should be the first to undertake such educational work. Instead of suggesting to the people that their problems, more especially unemployment, will be solved one day it would be preferable to tell them frankly that poverty and destitution will never be banished from this world, for the words of Our Lord cannot be misleading and He did say:

For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

I believe the time has come for men who sincerely wish to save our civilization to join hands in educating the people, and I take the liberty of making, not a suggestion, but a recommendation to the hon. the Secretary of State, with a view to helping those who may wish to devote themselves to that task. I recommend that he should have printed in both languages the report of the Quebec Social Insurance Commission, including the two encyclicals *Quadragesimo Anno* and *Rerum Novarum* and have it distributed first to all members of this house, of the senate and of the provincial legislatures, to the clergy, both Catholic and Protestant; to teachers, financiers, manufacturers and bankers; once those people know perfectly well the whole social question as it affects our country, it will then be easy for them to impart such knowledge to all classes of the population and to spread a sound doctrine; we will then be in a position to assert confidently that our unemployment problem has been solved.

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, no one in the house is more pleased than I am at the possible visit of their majesties to this country next spring. May I emphasize the fact that I fully realize the great personal sacrifice which will be theirs.