

months. According to their report it is quite possible with the present equipment in the United States for each family to have the equivalent of an income of \$4,400 per year. No thought was taken of new inventions or new methods, they were dealing only with the present resources and equipment, which if properly organized would provide that income for each family. Similar conditions exist in Canada. So under a proper system Canadian families might receive an income of upward of \$4,000 yet we have seen that the great majority of families have an income of less than \$1,000. As long as this is true I cannot accept the policy of the government as satisfactory.

I should like to direct the attention of the house to the physical conditions under which so many of our population are forced to exist. Not long ago I received a copy of the report of the Lieutenant Governor's committee on housing conditions in Toronto, 1934. I think it would pay every hon. member to obtain a copy of this report in order that he might understand the serious conditions which exist in one of the wealthiest of our Canadian cities. Let me turn for a moment to the east, to Montreal, the largest of our Canadian cities. In the Gazette of January 29, I find a report of General C. E. McCuaig, given before the emergency unemployment relief committee and the Protestant employment bureau which met at the Mount Royal hotel. This report reads:

There is for instance, within what is actually a stone's throw from the centre of our shopping district, a block of dwellings built on a back lot and closely surrounded by other buildings. It contains 19 four-room apartments with but three baths between them in which dwell no less than 148 persons, a concentration equal to 1,400 persons to an acre. In one of these apartments of four rooms there are 13 persons living; in another, 12; in another, 10; in two, nine persons; and in the others from four to eight persons.

Another paragraph reads:

Close to Sherbrooke street is a complete block of dilapidated dwellings with sagging walls and floors. Bad sanitary conditions, dampness, leaking roofs, vermin, in fact many conditions exist in this block any one of which should render it unsatisfactory as a dwelling place. Yet in it are crowded men, women and children, three and four to the room. In one five-room apartment there is a family of two parents and seven children, five of whom have been hospital cases this year and another is now suffering from pleurisy.

Families live in basements below the street level under cold and damp conditions. Old houses in the centre of the city have been converted by means of thin boards into apartments with as many as twenty people of four, five and six families sharing one community

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

bathroom, sometimes without a bath. These conditions exist within our city and despite our city and provincial laws. They are a challenge to our civic pride, not only through their effect upon the health and morals of those who are forced to live in them but as centres from which pestilence and vice may easily breed, to spread to your home and mine.

That is a challenge, not merely to that city and province but to the whole of this dominion. From this corner we have repeatedly urged that instead of providing a dole such as is done, we should have some definite construction work which would eliminate such conditions. We should at the same time provide the people with real work and higher living standards. There is no indication whatever in this budget that any far-reaching program of that kind is to be undertaken.

I should like to crave the indulgence of the house while I read a letter from the local council of women of Calgary, dated March 20, 1935. I have referred to conditions existing in the east but I should like to turn now to the west and listen to the voice of the women. This letter comes from the home city of the Prime Minister and it gives a careful analysis of the conditions existing there. It reads:

Dear Mr. Woodsworth:

As a result of tragic events an emergency meeting of the local council of women of Calgary was called yesterday and the following analysis of the situation is hereby submitted to you for the earnest consideration of yourself and your colleagues.

Within a period of two weeks, March 4, and March 15, 1935, two youths, aged twenty and eighteen years, of the city of Calgary, have taken their own lives. Both cases were reported briefly in the local papers as accidents, doubtless with the considerate intention on the part of the press to spare the families avoidable pain. But both cases were stark suicide. How much mental anguish preceded the final tragic acts can only be surmised.

Those who dare to face the facts realize that, in these two cases, self-destruction was the reaction of temperaments sensitive to the impact of intolerable conditions, economic, social and psychological. These conditions today are general and to a greater or less degree are alarmingly affecting the whole generation of our times.

Where does the responsibility lie? We have in Canada an abundance—indeed a glut—of material things. The intelligence quotients and the percentage of literacy of the Canadian people are notably high. We possess able and trained men and women ready and eager to attack and to solve our problems. Does our governmental system make it impossible to intelligently recruit and coordinate the services of able, selfless men and women in the great cause of the public interest?

We bring our children along through childhood and early youth with a highly motivated devotion, in our homes and in our schools. We teach them by implication at least, that life