

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

Surely it ought to be evident that for any nation which is producing \$28 billion worth of goods to say that we cannot provide the old age pensioners with \$83.50 a month worth of these goods is for us to acknowledge absolute intellectual bankruptcy.

The question is, what can we do about it? I am not prepared to grant there is nothing we can do about this matter. I am not prepared to grant that the money we use to provide these goods must be ground out of an overtaxed people, not by any manner of means. All I wish to do in the minute or two remaining is to point out a bit of information appearing on page 8 of a document prepared by the Bank of Canada entitled "The Story of Canada's Currency", which was printed for the Bank of Canada in 1955. On page 8 of the document the writer tells us about the Hudson's Bay Company tokens. These Hudson's Bay tokens were shaped like coins and made of some sort of compound, of the nature of which I am not just sure. I should like to refer to these particular words:

These Hudson's Bay Company tokens represented the unit of currency used in the fur trade for many decades. The largest—one "made-beaver"—was equal in value to the skin of an adult male beaver in prime condition. Smaller sizes represented one half, one quarter and one eighth made-beaver. Before these brass tokens came into use, a made-beaver was represented by a stick, a porcupine quill, an ivory disc, a musket ball or anything else agreed upon by trader and trapper.

Note these words particularly.

The trapper would be handed a number of the units agreed upon, representing the value of his catch, and with these would make his purchases from the store. The tokens were designed by George Simpson McTavish of Albany Fort in 1854.

In the area where I grew up as a small boy the merchants used to use a local currency which they called scrip. Units of scrip were used by them to pay people for produce like butter, eggs and other things of that kind. Then the scrip circulated in the communities, sometimes for months, helping to buy and sell goods. I will not say anything more along this line at the present time, but I think what I have already said indicates how with good will and a determination to do something the provinces and the dominion and the municipalities of the dominion can get together and work out a system whereby our elderly people can buy the goods they need to live on, at least to the extent of \$83.50 a month.

**Some hon. Members:** Ten o'clock.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall the item carry?

**Mr. Blackmore:** No. I thought I made that quite clear. I want to go on with this talk tomorrow.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

**Mr. Martin:** I wonder whether my hon. friend would do me the honour of letting me have a copy of a publication from which he read, which interested me very greatly. It was not the Bank of Canada one, but the other one. If my hon. friend could go on for a few more minutes we might conclude the item. I want him to know that I have followed what he has said with great interest. I know he is very sincere, and I want him to know that what he says is being received by me with the care with which he would want me to receive it.

**Mr. Blackmore:** The important thing, of course, is not that "it will be considered with care" but that something shall be done. There are just thousands and thousands of old age pensioners in Canada today, who cannot live on the pension. They have to go out and beg for the needs of life in addition to the \$40 on which they are trying to live.

I move the adjournment of the debate.

**Mr. Harris:** Mr. Chairman, accepting the motion to adjourn, may I suggest another course of action for the moment. Some hon. members in the house would like to make their remarks on the C.B.C. tonight if that were at all possible. I wonder if the committee would agree to sit while the minister makes his statement and one other member speaks after that. The hon. member cannot be here tomorrow. Then tomorrow we shall continue with this particular debate.

**Mr. Blackmore:** We will adjourn the C.B.C. discussion also, so that first of all we will call this discussion and finish it and then go on with the discussion of the C.B.C.?

**Mr. Harris:** Quite so.

**Mr. Blackmore:** So far as I am concerned that is thoroughly satisfactory.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Is it agreed then, that resolution 278 stands, by agreement?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Martin:** Could we pass the other ones and let that one stand?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Resolution No. 54, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

**Mr. Harris:** I think it was understood that we had passed resolutions Nos. 278 and 279 and we had stopped at 280.

**Mr. Martin:** No, we were letting 279 and 280 carry.

**Mr. Green:** Perhaps the minister did not understand that we were considering three of these items at one time, 278, 279 and 280.

**Mr. Blackmore:** And those three are being stood?