

Vocational Rehabilitation

should be trained among the same type of people as those with whom they are going to work after their training is completed. My second reason for saying that these people should be trained in the ordinary vocational schools as far as possible, if that is the type of training they are going to take, is that it helps those who are not disabled to have a greater respect for those who are.

My final word on this subject is this. I do not believe that any program of this type will be successful in Canada or anywhere else for that matter until we realize that we must emphasize the abilities of people and not the disabilities.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my wholehearted support for the spirit and purpose of the resolution. Before proceeding with my brief remarks, I wish to say that I am sure we are all very pleased to see the hon. member for Essex East again sitting in his seat and looking well recovered from his past disability.

When it comes to a subject like the one now before us, I suppose it is quite correct to say that regardless of party we not only speak with our minds but through our hearts. I am sure that in their experience throughout the years all members of the house have witnessed some rather tragic cases of persons who, through some physical or mental disability, suffered unhappiness and were unable to earn their living or make any contribution thereto because provision had not been made to rehabilitate them, to retrain them and give them an opportunity to live under satisfactory circumstances in relation to their physical or mental disability.

I think that the major task in this country today is to create a social environment in which all Canadians, disabled and otherwise, have the ultimate in opportunity to lead free, creative, happy and purposeful lives. I trust that this resolution, which I presume will mean an expansion of these services, satisfactory financial arrangements and so on, will be another step toward that goal. We have been very slow to move in this direction, Mr. Chairman, when we consider what the majority of us enjoy and having in mind our productive capacity, our scientific knowledge and the facilities we have for the treatment of physical and mental diseases.

The first steps toward rehabilitation of the physically disabled and enabling these persons to earn their own living were taken in Great Britain in 1817 on a small scale but with excellent results. I think it is a shocking indication of the lackadaisical approach of the twentieth century that we should still have thousands of Canadians who are anxious

to make a contribution but are unable to do so because we have done so little to make it possible for them.

When it comes to the question of instituting and expanding a program of this type, without doubt knowledge is necessary and to obtain facts and knowledge, research and a survey of the situation are necessary. As far as the technical and scientific aspects of the problem are concerned, I think a great deal of expense can be avoided by reference to the work that has been undertaken in other countries. In recent years there has been some excellent work done in western European countries, the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain and to a lesser extent in the United States as in Canada. But that body of knowledge should produce a foundation of fact and experience which should make it unnecessary to spend large sums on research with respect to principles and their application. The research we require is research into Canadian circumstances and conditions that will make possible the application to Canadian conditions of knowledge already available.

In Canada we have a body of knowledge and experience in the work of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the treatment of disabled veterans with a great measure of success. We have it in the experience of the workmen's compensation boards across the country. I know that the workmen's compensation board of British Columbia has gained a great deal of experience since the second world war in the rehabilitation of disabled persons injured in industrial accidents. No doubt that experience is duplicated to some extent in other provinces. Then we have the experience gained under the federal-provincial program for the disabled which was instituted in 1953. There is a body of experience and knowledge there.

Furthermore, the subject is so important and is concerning more and more people to such an extent that international agencies have given considerable thought to the matter. Quite an extensive amount of research has been undertaken by UNESCO. In that respect I wish to quote briefly from a book entitled, "Welfare of the Disabled", published in 1957. On page 17 I read the following:

The United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization has given attention to the education of the handicapped, including the blind, in its program.

It goes on to deal with the question of research, the information received from various countries and so on. I suggest that there must be a great store of knowledge and information that can be obtained from