

those who are blind, who thanks to the present minister are already in receipt of some help from the age of twenty-one.

Now, sir, I will not speak any longer. I have said part of what I wanted to say; but before closing I want to mention one instance. In my county there is a family of which five children, varying in age from twenty to thirty, are hunchbacks and dwarfs; but they are extremely intelligent. Think how deserving that mother was to bring them up. They have brothers and sisters who are normal, but the mother also looked after these children and brought them up very nicely. They are clever children, and I like them. When I see them, they say, "Mr. Pouliot, when will you speak over the radio again? We like to listen to you". You know, a statement like that is wonderful. I said to the mother, "Why do you not send your children to the hospital to be looked after?" She said, "Never. I will look after them." The father is not a rich man. He is getting old now. I mention the mother as one of the admirable ones who look after their own children. She brought up these invalids with such devotion and care that it deserves special acknowledgment and a special tribute.

I am not going to say any more; I am through. I thank the house and the minister for having listened to the plea for those who suffer and deserve immediate help.

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take any length of time at all. All I want to say is one thing, and I want to say it to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin); but he has left the chamber for the time being. In 1945 I brought this matter to his attention; and since then, if he looks over his file, he will find at least thirty-five or forty requests of him for people in my constituency.

I am glad that this resolution is before the house today because when the vote is taken on it this afternoon I think it will be a unanimous one; and it will be a most wonderful thing if it has the support of the entire house. I am not going to put up any further arguments in support of the resolution because it is not necessary. Every hon. member of the house believes in it. I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I want to support it by a vote this afternoon.

Mr. C. E. Johnston (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I see that there are quite a few members yet who wish to speak on this motion. I do not want to take too long. Certainly I do not want to be accused of attempting to talk this matter out. Yet I want to add my voice to those who have already spoken in its support.

I think every member of this house recognizes the worthiness of such a motion. They also recognize the necessity for this house doing something. We all quite well recall that just about a year ago a delegation of incurables came to this house. Most of them were in wheel chairs or had to be assisted from one part of the house to the other. On that occasion they visited every party represented in this house, and I am sure that they had a most wonderful reception. But although every party in this house received them with the greatest courtesy, listened to them patiently and endeavoured to do everything they could for their assistance, nevertheless I wonder just what has been done. That was a year ago. Even though this motion were passed today—and I suppose that if it comes to a vote it will pass; I hope it will—what is going to be done?

I recall quite well that about a year ago, before I left Calgary, I had the pleasure—if one can call it that—of attending one of these incurables' meetings. I was pleased to go there and assist them in what way I could. But it was certainly a pathetic scene, to see about thirty or forty of these cripples congregated in that one room in the home of one of them. Some of them had to be assisted there. Others were brought by cars. They could not walk. Some even had wheel chairs on that occasion. Some of those people were employed. I recall one lady who was employed; and she had to be assisted every day down to her work.

It is true that the blind are in a pathetic plight. It is terrible to be blind. We are assisting those people to some degree. But I just wonder how much worse it is for persons to be crippled by poliomyelitis or arthritis or something like that, as a result of which they cannot use their hands or their legs; they are absolutely dependent upon somebody else for everything. Yet we do not do a thing for them. Some of these people are compelled either to eke out an existence on their own behalf or to submit to charity. That should not be. As was said by the hon. member who preceded me, we are giving \$25 million to the Colombo plan, to assist these needy peoples in other countries. That is a worthy cause, but it seems to me that it is just as worthy, if not more so, that we should immediately begin to take care of some of these incurables within our own boundaries.

I know that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) is sympathetic to these people. We were told by the delegation that came here a year ago that the minister received them most courteously,