

*The Address—Mr. A. C. Stewart*

them. I should like to quote from the journals of the legislature of Saskatchewan, page 173 of March 3, 1949, as follows:

Q. How many prosecutions for non-payment of hospital tax have been initiated?

A. One hundred and ninety-two between January 1, 1947 and February 20, 1949.

Q. How many cases were brought to trial?

A. One hundred and twenty-two.

Q. How many convictions were there?

A. One hundred and thirteen.

Q. What were the total fines and costs?

A. \$1,053.85.

That is the party that was going to help the old people, but those are the facts as they appear on the record. We were told that hospitalization was going to be free. Then they charged \$5 per head. They waited until the election was over and a week later raised it another \$5 to \$10 per head. Now they are taking another \$5 per head out of the general revenue, making a total of \$15 that they are collecting and they are still in the hole.

Yet they criticize the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) and this government for being lax in matters of social welfare. It is a significant fact that in connection with hospital grants you can get the Ottawa contribution but you have to wait for the Saskatchewan contribution. They are short of money in Saskatchewan despite the fact that the federal government is giving them an annual grant of over \$14 million in lieu of income and other taxes.

They are nearly a year behind in paying road contractors and for other things that should be paid for. Yet we hear these criticisms and the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) has joined in them. We hear about certain things not being done for the old age pensioners, and reference is made to the means test. If the hon. member will read that blue book—some of us have looked it over—he will find reference to a pension on a contributory basis. He should remember that another dominion-provincial conference took place nearly five years ago. He should remember also that at that time the people logically believed that the cold war would be over. The government of Canada was then spending roughly \$250 million on defence, but last year they spent over \$380 million and this year the expenditures will be considerably larger. Anyone who has been in government will tell you that you cannot spend money without getting it from somewhere, from the taxpayer.

**Mr. Wright:** You are going to take it out of the old age pensioners.

**Mr. Stewart (Yorkton):** The hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright), who is not in his [Mr. Stewart (Yorkton).]

seat, has asked a question and I shall answer it. I am not going to take anything out of the old age pensioners.

**Mr. Wright:** That is what you said.

**Mr. Stewart (Yorkton):** I want to point out to the hon. member for Melfort that during the course of the last campaign my statements were quite clear. Some of my friends like the hon. member for Melfort do not even follow their Bible, which says:

For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

Even the bees kill off the drones, but the C.C.F. encourage them all the time. I do not believe in that. The people who settled western Canada came out in 1882 and they were not asking the government all the time to help them. What I said in connection with old age pensions was that I did not believe in the means test, that I did not believe in one person trying hard to save a little money while another person spent everything and got the same pension. In addition I said that the whole matter of welfare should be on a contributory basis and carried out under a settled scheme.

I went further and said that certain corporations in Canada already had their own pension schemes. At 15 years of age I worked in a bank which had a pension arrangement. There is a need of this committee to study all these things. The government may well take into consideration the fact that certain corporations and companies already have their own pension arrangements and allowance may be made in connection with income or corporation taxes. There may be some differentiation between those corporations that have such schemes and those that have not. This committee may recommend that all private schemes should be brought into the general scheme. Welfare is something that I think can be considered by the committee.

**Mr. Wright:** That is not what you said when you were before the electors last June.

**Mr. Stewart (Yorkton):** That is the exact statement I made over the radio, and if the hon. member for Melfort had dug out his ears he would have heard it. That is my exact statement and that is why I am putting it on *Hansard*. I invite the hon. member to come into Yorkton any time he likes and I will repeat that statement.

I am not going to dwell upon what the leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) said about China because the situation has already been covered, as I was going to imply it would be, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson). The leader of the C.C.F. has