

At that time great labour organizations organized, instituted and successfully carried on sick benefits. I am a strong believer in sick benefits. When the bread-winner at the ordinary low salary is taken sick or his wife is taken sick and he is placed in a position where he cannot carry on, why should he not have sick benefits? I do not know where they are to come from, but they should come from somewhere. If we have the authority to do these things I say, go ahead and bring in legislation along that line.

There is another group about whom I have been making a long investigation for quite a period of time, namely, the crippled. I have in mind at the present moment a man who is badly crippled. He is taken around in one of those little four-wheel child's wagons. He is a very fine man, an excellent musician, a man of high character. But as a child I suppose he became afflicted with spinal meningitis or something else that affected his legs so that he could never walk. He has been a cripple all his life. Society did not give him any chance. Our governments have not given him any chance. I hope that if the Prime Minister lives long enough—I cannot hope that he is to be Prime Minister much longer—but if he is—and no one can tell to-day who is to be Prime Minister after the next election—I suggest to him that he consider the cripples. There are many of them. I know a little girl who lives near my home. It would make your heart ache to see her getting around. She sits on the floor and throws one leg in front of her and draws the other behind her. She is unable to get a position anywhere. Society gives her nothing, and so far as I know the government gives her nothing. If the provinces would do it—

Mrs. CASSELMAN: I wonder if the hon. member knows that the social security committee is recommending a grant to the provinces to be used for aid to crippled children under the draft health bill which has been under consideration during the last few years?

Mr. MacNICOL: Let me say that I have studied the matter for quite a number of years, but I have never been able to get anywhere. I brought it up in this house some years ago. All I have to say is that if the provinces will not act, let the federal government act. The crippled child has the right to have a square deal from society and it is not getting a square deal to-day. The crippled child cannot get a position—

Mr. BLACKMORE: Would the hon. member permit a question? Does he imagine that there is any province that would refuse a grant in aid from the dominion for the purpose of the crippled children?

Mr. MacNICOL: No, I did not say that and I think the government—

Mr. BLACKMORE: Why all the excitement then?

Mr. MacNICOL: Because it is not being done to-day. I am not blaming the federal government.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The federal government is not granting the money. You are starting with the cart before the horse.

Mr. MacNICOL: No, I am not doing any such thing. I am saying that the horse, which in your case I suppose is the provincial government, is balky and will not do anything. If the cart is the federal government, then let the cart commence to take more notice of these things. The blind are being taken care of and have been for some time. I advocated pensions for the blind years ago and we had a committee on it a few years ago. I am glad that the government has granted contributions to the blind. I believe they are on the same basis to-day as the old age pensioners, are they not? That is all to the country's credit. These are four other social situations which I hope will be taken care of. I give the government credit for everything it has done. It deserves credit for what it has done, but we can all go farther.

That, Mr. Chairman, is my own humble contribution, small I know, but I never missed an opportunity to speak on these things, nor have I for the last twenty-five to thirty-five years and more. As one who has had some humble part in advocating and supporting these measures, I am glad to see that in the majority of cases they have come to pass.

I have only two observations to make with reference to the bill now before us. I am not clear on section 2. We have not yet come to it, but I may as well say something about it now. I am not clear about the position of the Canadian soldier who has lived here all his lifetime and had the courage to enlist. I honour those men who have the courage to enlist voluntarily. I know numbers from the riding I have the honour to represent. That riding is composed mostly of old country people, particularly the north end of it, almost solidly, and they have enlisted en masse. I know of one family by the name of David Seggie, of Harvie avenue, Toronto, a Scotsman who came over here from the old country, his blood being of that martial strain of old Scotland; his seven sons enlisted voluntarily. Four of them are in Italy, I believe; two of them in Britain and one here in Canada. That is the whole family. If the Prime Minister still continues as Prime Minister