

am sure they will bring to mind similarly afflicted persons known to other hon. members.

In my constituency is a man who, when a boy, and still at public school, was afflicted with some rare disease which left him totally unable to walk or, as years went by, even to stand up. He is now in his forties, and most of the time since his early youth he has been compelled to lie prone; he can scarcely feed himself. He is very intelligent. He lived with his aged mother, who cared for him. At the age of eighty she died, before his eyes, from a heart attack; he, though seeing her, was unable to do anything except call for help, and help had hardly arrived before his mother was gone. Her death left him with no one to care for him and without any means of support. Everyone wanted to do the best they could for him—he had lived in the village all his life—but the only thing that could be done was to take him to the hospital, which happened to be at Hamilton. I wanted to have him live in his own village, because I knew it was breaking his heart to have to go away; but I found that the amount which the municipality were willing to contribute for his support would not be supplemented if he remained in the village, but only if he was taken to hospital in Hamilton; I am not familiar with the institution but I believe it is a place for incurables. In the summer when in his home village he was put in a sort of bed which can be wheeled outside, left there during the day and wheeled inside in the evenings, so he spent his summers in the garden, where his friends and neighbours called and talked with him. His case brought home to me what a cruel thing we had done to him although nobody intended to be cruel. From his public school days until the present time he has not been able to live anything that approaches a normal life; but in his own little cottage in his home village he really was happy; he had his radio, friends came in to read to him, talk to him and treat him in a human way. Then suddenly he is taken away, and as far as I can see—and I have tried to do everything I can—there seems no way of getting him home again. Last year some of his friends were able to take him home for a day or two, but it is not possible for him to remain there.

I will cite another case in my constituency. This woman developed in her forties what seemed to be ordinary rheumatism and it got worse and worse. She is now over seventy and can neither sit nor stand, though she could for many years. It was a progressive disease and each year she got worse. You can imagine how much it must cost to care for

a patient from some time in the forties to, say the age of seventy-two. This woman could now get an old age pension, but she lives on a farm. All this time she has suffered so much that one wonders how she can continue to live. Her stepson has taken care of her in a loving and admirable way. He has farmed the land and when he could afford it has kept help; when he cannot afford it he cares for her himself. She told me that she could apply for a pension; but she would have to sign away the farm on which they live, and she said that she could not have it taken away from her stepson, who has done so much for her. She therefore goes on suffering and hoping that the end will be not too long delayed. That has been her condition for many years. These happen to be personal friends of mine, but I am sure that hon. members can all call to mind similar cases.

On Saturday I got a letter from a young man in Quebec who says he is twenty-eight and for sixteen years has been unable to walk. His story is much the same; there is no one to take care of him and he does not know how in the world he is to be supported. There is no pension for him; he does not know where to go, and he wishes to know whether something can be done for him.

Strangely enough, the three letters I have received are all from the province of Quebec. I can give the names if anyone wishes to have them, but I think it is better not to give them. This young man writes:

Do you not think that it would be only fair to include the crippled and invalids in this law?

He is referring here to the pension to the blind, and he suggests giving the crippled and invalids a pension at forty years of age. He goes on:

It seems to me that I should be as much entitled as old people to receive a pension by the fact that I am unable to work and without means of livelihood. Old people very often can depend on either a son's or daughter's support.

He says he has no children. The third letter came recently from the province of Quebec. The writer, a man, says:

I happen to be one of these unfortunates. I am thirty-eight years of age. I have to walk on crutches and my health is very frail. My folks are poor, my father being over sixty years of age, can only work during the summer season, he being too old to work as a lumberjack in the winter time. His income is about \$400 a year to support four grown-up persons.

I had a small business, but on account of sickness I ran into debt and cannot see my way to build up another trade, being short of funds.