

having to impose heavier burdens upon the taxpayer, in case that we agree to the new financial measures. In England, 200 million dollars a year go to the sweepstakes. In the United States, the postal authorities discovered that four billion dollars were spent each year in lotteries.

An official of the Red Cross Society stated in a letter to the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Furniss) that in a single office in Montreal \$298,000 had been spent on betting and sweepstake tickets, the purpose of which was to assist welfare organizations in Ireland, India or Newfoundland. I do not want to take more of the time of the house. I shall leave to the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Bertrand) whose speech is more convincing than mine the task of explaining the bill which he has introduced in this house. I want to say, in conclusion that for the above reasons I am in agreement with the views expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. Looking at Part XIII of the Versailles Treaty signed June 28, 1919, particularly at the preamble, we find:

Whereas the League of Nations has for its object the establishment of universal peace, and such a peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice;

And whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled; and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required. . . .

And I wish to lay emphasis on the following point.

Whereas also the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries and to secure the permanent peace of the world.

I shall now refer to the words used by the right hon. the Prime Minister in his speech delivered on the evening of the great Liberal victory of October 14, when the program of social legislation proposed by the right hon. the Leader of the Opposition had apparently been turned down by the electorate:

Poverty and adversity, indigence and distress, those are the enemies which Liberalism will endeavour to drive out of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I do say that each one of us has a right to express his views in this house, regardless of party politics. I am glad to see the Minister of Finance in his seat because two years ago, on February 20, 1936, he stated that his department was to watch the operation of the act as well as the economic conditions prevailing in the country and that, if there were any possibility, the age limit

[Mr. Wermenlinger.]

would be changed. Therefore, I respectfully suggest that, following the example set in 1906, 1912, 1913 and 1914, a committee of this house be appointed for the purpose of studying the necessity or the advisability of amending the Old Age Pensions Act.

Miss AGNES MACPHAIL (Grey-Bruce): I have listened with a great deal of interest to the speeches which have been made on this resolution. I do not intend to follow the line pursued by other speakers, although I agree that the last five years prior to the pensionable age are increasingly difficult for people with little or no means. I wish to speak briefly upon the needs of another class of Canadians, namely those who are totally disabled, and I am thinking particularly of people who are so crippled that they are unable to sit, but must lie prone; of others who can sit but cannot walk; and yet others who can walk only a few steps. It may be that I have come into contact with more cases of this kind than most hon. members; in any event I have definitely come to the conclusion that they are people who need help, even more, perhaps, than the blind, because they suffer so much and have no hope of ever being able to provide for themselves.

A year ago I went to the bureau of statistics and asked if I could get some data on the number of persons in Canada who, due to rheumatism, arthritis and other like diseases, are completely crippled, wholly disabled, but I was unable to get any figures because no returns were available. It seems to me that when the census is taken again we should be enabled to learn how many people there are in this country who are totally disabled and, to some extent at least, what caused them to be in that pitiable condition. I am taking the matter up on this resolution, because, in extending pensions to the blind at forty years of age, we did so under the Old Age Pensions Act. No doubt the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) wonders how many more classes of people are to be admitted to pensions under this act; but this seems to be the only place where one can bring up the question. In Ontario a woman in receipt of the mother's allowance receives, when her husband is totally disabled, an extra amount of money, not a great deal, but as much as would be allowed for another child. If her husband needs much care, that is, if there are medical expenses in connection with his disability, the allowance is not sufficient. But with that one exception—and the same may be true of other provinces—people totally disabled do not receive any pension until they are seventy years of age. I will cite two or three cases, and I