

that we should provide for our people should be the limitation on what we are able to provide for them by our industry within Canada and our ability to produce here and procure goods from outside the country with our production within the country.

Of course, living in a country such as ours, that means that if we are to have a high standard of living we must have world trade, and I rejoice in the attitude of our party because I realize that it is fundamental, if we are to have a high standard of living, to be able to trade our great surpluses for the surpluses of other countries that produce things we cannot produce. But while we are striving for an increase in world trade to raise the standard of living of all our people we should never lose sight of the fact, as the Prime Minister pointed out, that we produce most of the basic necessities of life in abundance within Canada. I rejoice that by this measure we are now going to help to supply those basic necessities of life to all of the children of this land of ours. I hope that once and for all that argument is going to be laid to rest, that we are such a stupid people that we permit our children to go in want alongside granaries bursting with grain and other foodstuffs that are spoiling, and that that situation will not prevail in the future.

One argument that has been used against this bill is that it will destroy the self-reliance of our people. I think that was well answered by the Prime Minister. I think, Mr. Speaker, that for one man who has been made strong by adversity there is at least one man who has been broken by adversity.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: One? Thousands.

Mr. TUCKER: Perhaps many more than one. It will be found, I think, that it is the strong of this world, those who manage to bend environment to their own advantage, who glory in their strength, who talk about the fact that every man should stand on his own feet, not realizing that people are all different, physically, mentally and otherwise. That some people by their physical ability, their health and strength or by their mental ability are able to build up a competence for themselves is true. Surely the organized state should say to the man who has found it too difficult to look after the family which he has, by his own unaided efforts, "You are making a great contribution to the future of your country; you are doing the best you can; to the extent that you are falling short, the state, which is your fellow-citizens, will come to your rescue and see to it that those future citizens whom you have brought into the

world and have in your charge do not come to want." I suggest that if you say to a man, "No matter whether you have health or strength; no matter whether you live or die, your children are assured of enough food, enough clothes and shelter, and their mother will not be in want," that man will face the future in good heart. He will be ready in time of need to go to the defence of his country because he feels that his country has stood by him and has always guaranteed him a living for his loved ones. He will serve his family, his community and his nation with more devotion than one could ever expect of a man who felt that he had to carry the load himself without hope of help from his fellow citizens.

Therefore I say it is entirely fitting, at a time like this, that we should say to the fathers and mothers of this land, "We are going to ensure you a minimum standard of living for your children, no matter whether or not you have health, whether you live or die." I rejoice in this measure for that reason. Not only will it strengthen the future citizens of this country; it will strengthen the present citizens and increase their devotion to their community and their country, and their joy in life. After all, we know that one of the things that detract from the joy of life is worry over what the future may bring, not only to yourself but to your loved ones. If you can be sure that the future has nothing bad in store for your loved ones in the event of anything happening to you, then you can apply yourself to the tasks of the day with a light heart, without being harassed by fear for the future.

I do not say this measure goes as far as I should like to see it go in that regard, but as with other measures I have supported since I have been in this house I realize there has to be a beginning. I have been very happy to support the beginnings of many worthwhile projects since I have had the privilege and honour of sitting in this house under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and I am grateful for that privilege. These measures have not always gone as far as I should like to see them go, but at least they were a start in the right direction, and as they have worked out well they have been extended.

The argument has been advanced that this work could be better done through the social agencies. Some people who live in the larger cities of this country talk about their splendid schools, about the noon lunches that are provided for children, about the medical attention they receive and about all the other things that are provided for children in these larger centres, and then ask why we are going ahead