

is a fit and proper person. She must be a British subject and have resided for at least eighteen months in British Columbia, have a child or children under sixteen and be without the necessary means to support them. (Chap. 61, 1920.)

Let us consider the various alternatives that, prior to the passing of this Act, presented themselves to an indigent mother with a family. First, she could place her children in an institution, and, with all due respect to the good work which many of the institutions are doing, the consensus of opinion among social workers is that the poorest home, if moral, is better for the children than residence in the best-conducted institution in the country. Secondly, she could give her children away for adoption or to friends. Thirdly, she could endeavor to keep the family together by eking out a miserable existence by casual labor. It is not fair to ask a woman who, through no fault of her own, is placed in an unfortunate position, to try to bring up a family under these conditions. It is bad for the children, because they are allowed to run out on the streets and get into bad habits through the lack of parental control which they otherwise would have. Fourthly, she could resort to doubtful modes of living in order to provide the necessities of life for herself and her children. Now, any of the above alternatives are not very desirable, and are not in the interests of the children, mother or state.

The Mothers' Pensions Act will in future preclude the possibility of a widowed mother with small children having to face any of the above situations.

### THE ADOPTION ACT

The rights of the adopted child are safeguarded by the Adoption Act, Chap. 2, 1920. The place in the family of such child is definitely established, with due share in the inheritance. Herein are checked some of those evils which arose under the former haphazard method. Many adopted children, owing to the ignorance of the adoptive parents as to their real status, upon the death of their protectors found themselves thrust