

The Address—Mr. Noseworthy

years, and has no reason to be ashamed of having done so. As a matter of fact, if we are to accept the statements made by the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Drew) during his election campaign, the Liberal party were not very far from the C.C.F. They had become almost as socialistic as the C.C.F. What I think is most interesting is that every time the leader of the official opposition made that statement on the hustings he made votes for the Liberal party, not for himself. I am confident that the unparalleled success of the Liberal party at the last election was due in large measure to the fact that to some extent they had adopted and enforced measures which the C.C.F. had been advocating since its inauguration in 1933, and which the groups which came together then to form the C.C.F. had been advocating before that time.

I am going to check the record for a few moments because I like this business of checking the record. The Liberal campaign committee for the province of Ontario ran a series of advertisements in the Ontario press during June entitled, "Check the record." They took great credit, and they are entitled to it, for the institution of family allowances. But I want to tell them that if they will look up the C.C.F. program they will find that family allowances were adopted as part of our party program at the convention of 1942. No action was taken by the Liberals in connection with family allowances until 1944. Therefore I think we can claim some credit for having created in the public mind a demand for that particular piece of social legislation.

In that same advertisement the Liberals took credit for having introduced unemployment insurance. I should like to remind hon. gentlemen opposite that if they will go back to the 1933 Regina manifesto, to which an hon. gentleman referred a moment ago, they will find that unemployment insurance was adopted in that year as part of the C.C.F. program. It was not until 1940 when industrial labour was so essential to our war effort that the Liberal party got around to doing anything about unemployment insurance.

I am at a loss to understand the next item in the advertisement by which the Liberal party takes credit for a national health plan. I fail to understand what they mean by a national health plan. In the Liberal platform of 1919 there was a promise of health insurance, but I do not know of anything approximating health insurance that has been introduced by the Liberal party in the thirty years that have elapsed since 1919. The latest statement I can find on the matter is that the Liberal party does not want to introduce health insurance until enough hospitals have been built to provide the necessary

accommodation. At the rate at which we are building hospitals at the present time, even with government help, it will be at least fifty years before we have sufficient hospitals so that health insurance can be introduced on that basis. The grants in aid that the federal government is making today to the provincial governments for health purposes represent just about ten per cent of what would be required to institute an over-all national health plan.

What is rather striking is that the Liberals take full credit in that advertisement for any collective bargaining agreements that are in existence. There again I would say that any achievements that have been made in the field of collective bargaining have been due to the fight put up by organized labour over the past fifty years, with little or no assistance from the governments of this country. If hon. members want to make a comparison I suggest that they go back again to the 1933 Regina manifesto where they will find that collective bargaining was made a part of our program. Little or nothing was done and no help was given by the Liberal government to bring about collective bargaining until 1944, when the first act was passed.

There are a number of other credits taken by the Liberals in that advertisement. They took full credit for old age pensions. Need I remind this house that old age pensions were first introduced when both the Conservative and Liberal leaders in this house needed the support of a small group led by the late J. S. Woodsworth, and the basis of that support was a promise from the former Prime Minister of this country.

An hon. Member: In writing.

Mr. Noseworthy: That promise was made in writing and it hangs on the walls of our national office. It was to the effect that if we would give support during the following session he would introduce old age pensions. Incidentally, Mr. Woodsworth asked also at that time for unemployment insurance and was promised that it would be given consideration.

The Liberal party also took credit for the veterans charter. I want to congratulate the government on the veterans charter and the extent to which they have assisted the veterans of world war II, certainly as compared with the treatment meted out to the veterans of world war I. It is one of the bright spots in our civilization; it is one of the bright spots that indicate that we as a Canadian people are making progress. I am particularly pleased with the assistance that has been given to the young veterans who have come back desirous of completing their education. While in the house from 1942 to 1945 it was