

*The Address—Mr. McIvor*

I was amused on Monday when the leader of the C.C.F., the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), introduced an amendment condemning the government for not at this time having passed a bill supporting old age pensions. How could we have passed a bill before the speech from the throne was passed? Give us a little time, Mr. C.C.F., and we will show you.

**Mr. Knowles:** But you voted for the means test.

**Mr. McIvor:** I have said often in the house that I am just as much interested in old age and other pensions as anyone else, and I will not stop until every last one who cannot earn a living may have a home, bread and butter to eat, and clothes to wear. But I do not think I would be justified in supporting increased old age pensions until those who are suffering from arthritis and other incurable diseases receive pensions equal to those received by the aged. I have said before that if the Liberal party holds office long enough in the House of Commons the restrictions will be lifted, and there will be pensions of \$50 a month for our aged citizens.

There is another side to this matter. I know a prominent member of the House of Commons who paid into a pension scheme for thirty-five years, but his pension will not be more than the old age pension. Therefore I say that the sooner the Minister of National Health and Welfare can bring in a national contributory pension scheme for all Canada, the better it will be for everybody. The man who is earning his living may get a little more than he needs to spend, and he can buy a little less gingerale so that he may be able to put those savings into a pension fund or scheme which will give him a decent pension in his old age. In my view that is absolutely necessary.

I was pleased to hear the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Gibson) make the statement he did today with respect to gold. I have not forgotten the last depression. Had it not been for the mines north of Port Arthur and Fort William there would have been many more people out of work than there were at that time. The mines created a lot of work, and our boys were glad to leave home to get it, because they needed the employment. We hope that the action taken will stimulate gold mining.

In gold mining, however, the forgotten man is the prospector. I have on the order paper a resolution recommending that when a prospector makes a find, a geologist be sent in. If it is found to contain gold or some other valuable mineral, then it should be investi-

[Mr. McIvor.]

gated and developed, and when the mine is in operation the costs will be taken out of the returns from that operation.

There was something else before us for a day or two, and that is the suggestion, in connection with the royal commission investigating radio, among other things, that radio licence fees would be increased from \$2.50 to \$4 or \$5. I shall have to have much more information than I now have before I will vote for an increase in the radio licence fee. For farmers all over the country with battery sets such extra cost would be a hardship. Members of the House of Commons with their large salaries can afford to pay a fee of \$5 instead of \$2.50, but it would be a hardship on a man who is making just enough to live and who has very little to spend. I would be willing to pay \$5 if only for the enjoyment of hearing the hockey announcements and the good that is derived from the Sunday services that are broadcast, but I am not prepared to support any increase in the fee until I have more information.

As I indicated last year, we at the lakehead are trying to take care of our youth. I think Fort William is setting an example in the way it is looking after the boys and girls, both summer and winter. We have supervised playgrounds all over the city for boys and girls and we provide swimming pools for everyone, including the little tots who can just wade in the corner. There are paid supervisors on duty all the time. When winter comes, and we are glad to see it come, there are about 28 supervised hockey rinks where the boys and girls can play hockey, and alongside those rinks are other rinks for skating only. We believe that we must take care of our boys and girls if they are to have common sense pounded into their brains. When a boy or girl is taught to go to his or her own church or place of religious instruction then he or she will play a better game throughout life.

We did not have a swimming pool in ward four of Fort William, although there was one downtown. The people in that western section felt that there should be another swimming pool available, but the city did not have the money and apparently the dominion or provincial governments were not ready to spend any locally. The young men of that district took the matter in hand and through efficient organization and some aid from the city they built one of the finest outdoor swimming pools in Canada. If any hon. member wants to have a real swim I would be ready to take him to that swimming pool, in the summertime of course. It is an example of what a group of unselfish, willing workers can do, and I pay my tribute to them.