

Economic Rehabilitation

in carpentry, electricity, plumbing, automobile mechanics, commercial work, hair-dressing, barbering, practical nursing, metal work, meat cutting, welding, dry cleaning and radio servicing.

The training was carried on by the province with the federal government assisting in the cost on an equal basis, and it was a very successful experiment. The last report indicated that over 95 per cent of those who received training were employed in the field for which they were trained.

With due respect to the remarks of my hon. friend, I will admit at once that it would not have been possible to find employment for these people in the work for which they were trained and in the way that it was possible to do it if it had not been for the fact that an increasing number of openings came about through the establishment of Camp Gagetown in the south and the commencement of work on the Beechwood project up the Saint John river. This was a case of attempting to overcome a very difficult situation in an area in which, speaking generally, job opportunities were on the increase.

I am going to go back to the great province of Nova Scotia which I visited over the last week end and where I found 15 feet of snow banked in some places. We will take a community where industry is at a low ebb, not completely out of operation but in such a state that the immediate community cannot absorb those who are becoming unemployed without some special action. In other words, I refer to a community where employment is not on the way up but rather is stationary or slightly on the way down. I am going to take the town of Westville, Nova Scotia, because the experiment there took place about the same time as those to which I have referred.

I refer now to the closing of the Drummond mine in 1954. There again was a closing in the midst of an industrial area in which there were few opportunities for further employment at the time. A good many workers in that mine were thrown out of employment. Classes were established by the provincial government of Nova Scotia, in co-operation with the federal government, to train unemployed miners in four trades. They were welding, plastering, barbering and auto body repair. There at Westville 71 persons were enrolled in the first six months' course and all of them have been employed in the fields in which they were trained.

The reason for that was that the number, as is indicated, was not large, but they were trained in activities, for which those who arranged it were quite sure they would be

[Mr. Gregg.]

able to find openings. Two of the classes have been continued at Westville. Special classes for unemployed more recently have been established in Sydney, North Sydney and Glace Bay in sheet metal working, diesel engineering and auto body repairing. My friend the hon. member for Cape Breton South can tell us about that matter more clearly than I; but that training has been going on for a short time and I believe that within the very small limits in which it is operating, it is having useful results.

Mr. Gillis: It is doing a very good job.

Mr. Gregg: So much for training or experimenting in the task of training unemployed workers for work within their immediate vicinity. But in his resolution my hon. friend has these words "to resettle in other communities where alternative employment can be provided". I am sure that, from the introductory remarks in the moving of the resolution, we all gathered that this kind of activity was not one about which the hon. member for Cape Breton South was very enthusiastic. I can agree with him in that regard. I do not approach with any enthusiasm the necessity of uprooting established families in one part of Canada and moving them to another part of Canada, particularly families that have been in a given community for a good many years.

Within our country I think we must always have young workers who are free of responsibility, energetic and willing to engage in adventure and go off and work in those things that are happening on the frontiers of Canada. If we do not have them or if we do not have people coming in who are prepared to do that, those activities will not be successfully carried forward. But in the kind of communities I have mentioned, in Westville, Marysville, Glace Bay, Sydney or Sydney Mines, it is not at all a cheerful prospect to move families out unless it is absolutely essential.

We have, however, in this field felt that it was justified in some instances. For this fiscal year 1955-56, which has been a fairly busy year for everybody, we have assisted in the movement of 253 unemployed workers. They have all been from Nova Scotia during this fiscal year. The movement was carried out under the plan of our national employment service. Of those 253, 213 were former coal miners, 174 going to the province of Quebec and 39 to the province of Ontario. Some 34 of the others were placed in jobs as labourers at Camp Gagetown while the remaining 6 included 4 diesel mechanics, 1 recreational manager and 1 physical instructor, all of whom were transferred to jobs which were known to exist in Quebec and Ontario.