

industry. They can see which way the wind is blowing. Do not overlook the fact that labour can see what the trends are in our modern way of living. For example, I can assure you sir, that the labouring men of this country have the knowledge that we in Canada have discovered a vast reservoir of modern productive forces which is likely in due course to remove from the productive effort very large numbers of the men in this country. Let me just enlarge on that for a moment.

We have already developed in Canada electrical energy the equivalent of 450 million man-power. We have that power to turn the wheels of industry and put comforts and amenities into the homes of Canada's twelve million people. But there is still tremendous undeveloped power. I understand that that electrical energy to the equivalent of 450 million man-power which is already developed represents only one-third of our potential. What can happen when the other two-thirds are developed?

Most of these electrical men can work for from one-tenth to one one-hundredth of a cent an hour, day in and day out, year in and year out. On the other hand it requires a minimum of forty-five cents an hour for the average labouring man to keep body and soul together. If we keep on technologically improving our industries and our productive efforts we shall come to the point where we shall be throwing our potential man-power, our human beings, into competition with those 450 million electrical men. What is the solution of the problem? Labouring men see that.

The second thing which labouring men see and which they face squarely is that within their younger days man-power used to be the sole productive force. To-day labour sees that man-power has a changing role; instead of being the sole productive force it is merely the controlling force. One man is able to control the equivalent of thousands of men. My mind goes back to the day when my dad said to me, "Look here, son, I want you to start this summer to dig the basement to our home; that will be your contribution to the family dwelling." He gave me the old nags, a plough, a scraper, a shovel, a pick and a wagon and he put me at it. That was the summer I was eighteen years of age. All summer long I worked, and at the end I had the basement dug and ready.

It was not very long ago that I stood in my backyard in Edmonton one Saturday afternoon and watched a man come in to the lot next to mine driving a caterpillar tractor with a string of equipment. He set to work, and in just

[Mr. Low.]

four and a half hours he had dug the basement to a fine home. I thought then, "By George, I was born forty years too soon."

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): He was faster than you were.

Mr. LOW: Yes, he was, but he did not work any harder. He wore blisters on a different place than I did.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am told they hurt more there.

Mr. LOW: That is right, but it hurt my feelings when I thought of what I had had to go through. The point I wanted to make is this: Here was one man who could sit there cool as a cucumber and enjoy the whole process of doing the work of a great many men. So it is all through industry, and labour sees this trend. This is what they ask themselves: In the course of the war when we had only eighty per cent of our man-power available for productive enterprise in this country, we were able to bring our total national production up to something around \$10,000 million, which is nearly three times what it was before the war. If we could do that during the war with only eighty per cent of our man-power, when the others come back from the armed services and from our essential war industry and want to go into the productive effort for peace time, what are we going to do with them? That is what they are worrying about to-day. How are they going to get jobs? Of course the C.C.F. say that they are going to give full employment, and I saw some of the Liberal party's posters on some of the buildings throughout the west promising jobs for everybody.

An hon. MEMBER: They have taken them down.

Mr. LOW: Labour is wondering whether the political parties which have been promising jobs for everybody actually mean what they say, because they see a situation developing in which man-power is assuming more and more the role of a controlling force, and they are convinced down in their souls that never again will the total potential man-power of this country be required to do the ordinary chores of production, no matter what standard of living we want to attain for our people. That being the case, labour is certainly not at rest. It is wondering where it is going to get off, and therefore labour becomes easy pickings for the agitators, who can easily stir them up and get them into a restless ferment.

Here comes my suggestion, for I do not want just to bring this matter before the committee without offering some suggestion. It is time that we all in the parliament of Canada say