

Mr. McMASTER: But can we provide work for them?

Mr. MARLER: This matter is so serious that we cannot close our eyes to the figures as they exist, and that emigration would not have taken place, as I have held before in this House, if there had been sufficient work and sufficient remunerative employment in this country to keep those self-same people at home. My hon. friend from Brome (Mr. McMaster) anticipates what I am about to say. Now business in the United States in the past few years has been rising and has reached the peak. It is now going down. Some of these self-same emigrants—not all of them, I do not think even the majority, because I do not believe the majority will ever come back to the country, I believe they are gone forever—are now coming back. They are coming back in considerable numbers. Have we work in this country to supply these self-same men who went away? I question very much if, at the present time we have the work to give them employment. I question very much, if they do come back in large numbers, whether we can give them employment; and an immigration policy to be successful in this country must be based on something a great deal more than merely getting the people into Canada. There must be something here for the people to do when they arrive, and until we realize that fact, and realize it to the full, I do not know that we are doing this country any great amount of good by bringing artisans, mechanics or other classes of people into Canada in large numbers. In addition to that—and I think this is quite germane to the subject—owing to the condition of business in the United States we will have in the next few years sent into this country hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars' worth of goods, to be sold at prices at which we cannot manufacture those goods here, and if we are to allow those goods to come in at slaughter prices—and I am not talking on tariff matters just now—

Mr. ROBB: You are very dangerously near it.

Mr. MARLER: Then I will get off the subject at once.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Will the hon. member tell me if the dumping of slaughtered goods into this country would not reduce the cost of living?

Mr. MARLER: No, it absolutely would not, and it is utterly impossible, it seems to me, for some people to get it into their heads

that the more goods that come in here by this means the greater the cost of goods manufactured in this country. That is a question on which we do not all agree, but perhaps I had better not debate it at any great length. It may bring up a discussion similar to the discussion on the banks.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Would the hon. member not apply it to what the farmer has to sell, as well as to what the manufacturer has to sell?

Mr. MARLER: I will not take up that question, but we are going to be faced with the condition where we will have a large amount of American goods coming in. My hon. friends must make up their minds—I have made up my mind and I intend to persist in it—that if these goods come in there will be less work for people to do, and we may as well acknowledge that without question. Let us make up our minds—and I have made up mine pretty well—that we had better start on a solid foundation, and realize that if we want to get people here, it is not a question of restriction or of ocean rates, but it is a question of whether they can get work here.

An hon. MEMBER: They can.

Mr. MARLER: Perhaps they can, and that is the basic question we should decide, and not a question of ocean rates or restrictions.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: We ought to decide whether or not there is room at the present time for more workers, an open-door policy has been advocated on the floor of this House tonight, but this preliminary question should be answered before we decide whether we wish to introduce a larger immigration. A little while ago the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken) suggested that any man who was willing to work could earn a living in this country; that the men who had not work were men who were no good. I should like to bring to the attention of the committee a letter which was recently sent out from the city of Toronto by the mayor and board of control to the mayors of other Canadian cities:

Toronto, May 1st, 1924.

Toronto—the second largest city in the Dominion of Canada in point of population—has during the recent winter months passed through a serious unemployment situation, created and prolonged, in very large measure, by reason of an unusually heavy influx of immigrants, chiefly of the unskilled classes in so far as labour is concerned and which could not be readily absorbed in ordinary industrial and trained employment. As the months passed, the conditions of unemployment became more intense until at the present time, when seasonably