

aware that the present policy, which simply gives relief without requiring work and without providing work, is absolutely demoralizing. One thing that a great many of us have been urging upon the government at this session is that the policy of providing relief work in some form or another should be instituted, not merely because we believe it to be economical in the long run, although it would entail a certain amount of capital outlay, but because it is in the interests of the unemployed men themselves. The Prime Minister is inclined to scoff at the idea of a six-hour day. Under modern conditions it is not altogether unreasonable to cut down production, and that can perhaps most readily be done, as is admitted by a good many employers, by reducing the hours of labour. Figures were given in Toronto on Monday with regard to unemployment in Canada. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, of whom I asked a question, said that he thought those figures were very wide of the mark. But I must call his attention to the fact that they were given on the platform of the Canadian Political Science Association by a group of men who had been investigating this matter for some months past—Mr. H. M. Cassidy, Mr. A. G. Heakes, and Mr. G. E. Jackson, of the University of Toronto. These are capable men pursuing lines of investigation similar to those carried on in Dominion government offices, and taking their data from Dominion government reports. According to their figures, instead of a decline in unemployment there has been an increase. If their figures are anywhere near the truth they reveal a serious condition. Taking a group of eight of the largest industries—manufacturing, logging, mining, communications, transportation, construction, service and trade—they show that in March, 1932, the last month for which data is available, an average in these eight industries of 35.9 per cent of the men are unemployed. In view of the fact that over a third of the men in the main industries are unemployed, it might be well to cut down production and absorb this third in productive labour. I do not think that suggestion can be brushed aside by the assertion that a lot of men do not want to work. Without going into details, I should like to make a comparison to show where we stand so far as unemployment is concerned. These gentlemen assert that in the month of March, 1929, there were in these eight industries 262,941 unemployed. A year later, in March, 1930—and I believe that is a fair month to take—the number was 328,154. In March of this year, 1932, the number was 726,594.

Mr. BENNETT: What was it for 1931?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The number was 513,599; I am sorry I omitted that when reading the other numbers. These figures indicate a steady increase during the last three years. Approximately the same is true of the different months of the years. I note that the census figures are taken for the month of June, and for the information of hon. members I shall give figures of unemployment for that month:

June, 1929..	114,337
June, 1930..	243,424
June, 1931..	476,688

Mr. STEVENS: Those are figures given by the group of gentlemen to whom the hon. member has referred?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, concerning eight of the leading industries. Then, the percentages may be of interest.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Would the hon. member give us all the information on one item? Take logging, for instance.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Shall I begin with January, 1929, and go forward to each year?

Mr. CHAPLIN: No; let us have the figures for January of each year, or for March of each year, as the hon. member pleases.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The following are the figures in the logging industry for the month of March in four consecutive years:

March, 1929..	5,676
March, 1930..	4,715
March, 1931..	18,983
March, 1932..	22,946

Mr. CHAPLIN: Yes, those figures for the whole of Canada.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, for the whole of Canada, and I was about to give the percentages of unemployed in these eight industries during those four years. They are as follows:

	Per cent
March, 1929..	13.7
March, 1930..	16.8
March, 1931..	25.8
March, 1932..	35.9

Probably it would be well to give the estimates of the average number of workers unemployed in Canada from the years 1929 to 1931 inclusive.

Mr. BENNETT: I understand the figure 13.7 per cent represents the percentage of unemployed?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what the paper said.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes. I shall now give the estimated average number of workers