

In my estimation these gentlemen are not the people whom I am going to take as authorities on the question of prosperity in Canada. How are we to gauge prosperity here? Are we to gauge it by the fact that the manager of a bank or the president of a railroad says that we are prosperous? Whom do they mean when they use the term "we are prosperous"? They mean the bondholders and stockholders of those particular corporations. I venture to assert that the majority of bondholders and stockholders do not even live in Canada. In other words, the profits made by those corporations usually go outside the Dominion and do not help the people who are residents of this country.

I wish to gauge the prosperity of the people of Canada by the general contentment and well-being of the great masses of the people. If I take that as a criterion, then I say we are far from being prosperous. Within the last few months there have been two conferences in western Canada to deal with the question of unemployment. Do not let us for a moment think the problem of unemployment is to be found only in the western part of Canada; for on my way from the west to Ottawa I stopped off in Toronto for a day, only on Wednesday last, and in the daytime I found a long line of men right on Yonge street waiting to get a free meal. They were standing three abreast on the sidewalk, practically blocking all the traffic. When you find these long lines of men waiting at the soup kitchens, and when you find vast numbers of men and women out of work throughout the country, no hon. member has any right to say in this house that we are prosperous, because we are not.

The name of Sir Charles Gordon has been mentioned here as an authority on the question of prosperity. I have in my hand a blue book issued under the authority of parliament, dealing with the investigation that was held by the committee on Industrial and International Relations in the year 1928, and I want to quote from the evidence in connection with the men and women employed by the Dominion Textile Corporation, of which the same Sir Charles Gordon happens to be president. Incidentally I might point out that this company is one of the most highly protected industries in the Dominion, receiving I believe a protection of from 30 to 35 per cent. Dealing first with the shoe factories in the province of Quebec, Mr. Beaulé, president of the Catholic syndicates in the province of Quebec, is examined:

Q. What is the average wage per day?—A. In many factories, where the syndicates are represented, men on piece work make, on an

average, between \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year. The men that are not organized, working on piece work, average from \$12 to \$20 per week.

Now I quote from the evidence in regard to the textile industry in the province of Quebec:

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. Can you give us any idea of the wages and hours with regard to the girls in the cotton factories?—A. They do not work more than 48 hours per week.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. What are the wages?—A. I cannot say precisely, but I do not think that these girls get more than \$8 per week the year round.

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. Eight dollars per week?

Then the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. St-Père) who is not now in his seat, made the following observation:

According to the statistics of the Labour department, the average wage for men working in the cotton mills is \$666 per year. I got that information myself.

The hon. member for Hochelaga, who sits behind the Prime Minister, makes that statement, and yet he will no doubt vote for the speech from the throne, which says that we are prosperous, while as a matter of fact men are working in the province of Quebec for a wage of about \$12 a week and girls for about \$8 per week, and the president of the corporation paying such wages is cited as an authority on prosperity in the Dominion of Canada.

The Prime Minister stated that the responsibility for the care of the unemployed rests first with the municipalities, second, with the provinces, and third, with the federal government. I think that order ought to be reversed, and that the first responsibility ought to be on the federal government, the second on the provinces, and the third on the municipalities, for the very simple and obvious reason that no municipality creates any unemployment problem. Unemployment is created by conditions over which the municipality has no control whatever; they are merely the victims of circumstances. We have unemployment to-day in all parts of this Dominion; it is not a problem affecting merely one part of the country. It has got beyond the boundaries of any single municipality; the condition is common throughout the country, and there must be a common cause.

Why have we this vast amount of unemployment throughout the Dominion? The Prime Minister has completely failed to explain it, and unfortunately even the leader of the opposition has not told us why we have it. One of the reasons why we have unemployment in this country is because there