

six members from the province of Ontario generally and eleven members from the city of Ottawa, a total of twenty-five members. There was not one representative from west of the great lakes on a board which is of paramount importance to workers across this dominion. This is indicative of the insular attitude which has been adopted by the administration with respect to a problem which affects the whole country.

There is another matter which is of interest to the province from which I come and to the other wheat growing provinces, namely, the proposed production of industrial alcohol and synthetic rubber from surplus farm crops, particularly wheat. Yet when an advisory committee was set up the other day to cooperate with the rubber controller in connection with matters involving synthetic rubber, and I presume the production of things like butadiene from which synthetic rubber is manufactured, we find that the chairman of the committee is from Toronto, a gentleman high up in one of the rubber companies of this country, while all the other members come from the central portion of Canada. There is not one from western Canada, not one from the Pacific seaboard or one from the maritimes. This production of synthetic rubber and industrial alcohol is of growing importance to western Canada; yet there is not one representative on that committee from that particular part of the country.

It makes the people out there suspicious that the administration is not giving to these problems the consideration which they, in western Canada, consider is due to them. They feel that they will not be allowed to take their proper place in the war effort of this country unless a larger view is taken of the whole subject. This question was most succinctly expressed a short time ago in the *Regina Leader-Post* in an editorial which referred to a report concerning the sending of wheat to eastern Canada for the production of industrial alcohol. The editorial was reprinted in the *Star-Phoenix* of November 4, 1942. I quote:

A few days ago it was announced that 264,000 tons of wheat were being shipped, or were to be shipped, to central Canadian distilleries to produce 66,000 tons of commercial alcohol. So far as shipping is concerned this means sending by rail 264,000 tons of raw material a distance of about 1,500 miles as against sending one-quarter of that tonnage, if the alcohol were made in the west. Apparently in this case, the question of placing a "strain" on the railway facilities does not count as much as when the proposal is to set up plants in the west.

Then, of course, the residue from the production of alcohol, amounting to 25 per cent of the weight of the raw material, after liquids and waste have gone down the drain, is first-class stock feed and needed in the west. No doubt

someone in Ottawa or Toronto will get the bright idea of shipping it back to the west in cake form at a profit despite the fact that doing so will put another "strain" on the railways.

The argument for placing these alcohol plants in the west is so logical it cannot be refuted. The same applies in the case of linseed and soya bean oils which are and will be needed in vast quantities both now and after the war.

I would point out that the prairie provinces are being forgotten as far as war production is concerned. But this problem involves more than the immediate present; it involves the future. There is a great deal of talk at the present time about social security, the necessity for sickness insurance, health insurance and the continuation and improvement of unemployment insurance. All these things are necessary; they are long overdue, and I agree with all of them. The other day the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) took time to send out a few gibes about the position of my party in this connection. The Prime Minister has been in power as Prime Minister for sixteen out of the last twenty-two years, and yet an unemployment insurance scheme which was advocated by his party as long ago as 1919 was not put into effect until a year or two ago. While health insurance is mentioned in the speech from the throne, we do not know when it will be put into effect because it is going to be referred to a committee. These things are required and no matter who brings them in, I will subscribe to them.

It seems to me, however, that we forget a most important principle when we are discussing matters of social security. We do not forget those words of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States when they formulated the Atlantic charter—security and freedom from want, but we seem to fail to remember that the whole thing is based upon the necessity of providing gainful employment to all the employable people in this country. When we discuss these matters of social security, unemployment insurance, health insurance, state medicine and so on, we forget a paramount and important premise, namely, that you cannot have them unless the majority of the people of the country are gainfully employed. A scheme of social security will not work if nobody is working.

An hon. MEMBER: What about machinery?

Mr. BENCE: You cannot make machinery work unless you have somebody behind it.

Mr. BLACKMORE: You cannot put twelve men to work on a combine.

Mr. BENCE: I am not going to get into an argument with my hon. friend on that