

Mr. GRANT: At that time there were 117,000 unemployed in Canada, and by featuring this comparatively new inspiration they succeeded in persuading the Canadian electorate that it was a most serious state of affairs. Their leader's voice resounded from coast to coast in such expressions as, "King promises to enact measures to relieve unemployment; I promise to end unemployment. Which do you like best?"

Miss MACPHAIL: None of you ends it.

Mr. GRANT: But on taking office what did they do? They added more than 100,000 annually to the unemployed in Canada, and did little but herd them like cattle into unemployment camps of idleness, until the unemployed in Canada exceeded the million mark. I well remember a speech delivered by the then Prime Minister after the numbers of the unemployed had reached about 600,000, in which address he stated that 150,000 unemployed was normal for a country of 10,000,000 people. And yet, in 1930, he and the present leader of the opposition bellowed themselves into power on the cry that to have 117,000 unemployed was disastrous. I say to the leader of the opposition and his followers that such a cry cannot be repeated, and might as well be dropped, so far as trying to deceive the electorate of Canada is concerned.

Miss MACPHAIL: But it was repeated by the Liberals.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. GRANT: Our opponents would like to make it appear that the government has been idle. One hon. member who, I am sorry, is not in his seat, has described the procedure as that of waiting for Santa Claus. Nothing could be more unreasonable. We have had Santa Claus continually with us since 1935, in the person of the senior member for Queens, Prince Edward Island (Mr. Dunning)—and may I say that regardless of party affiliation, all hon. members are delighted to see him with such a ruddy complexion and looking so well since his return to the house. I doubt very much if the hon. member who made that statement will have as generous a Santa Claus to deal with him when he hangs up his stocking after the next federal election.

This government have been alert and progressive since the first session of the present parliament. In fact the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has consummated a trade agreement with the United States even before the first session of parliament. In my own constituency programs

of public works have been carried out continuously by both federal and provincial governments. In many instances the work has been done jointly, and in order that the needy should not be overlooked in the distribution of work the federal Department of Labour appointed a war veteran whose duty it was to visit the various undertakings and see to it that the poorer and the more needy were given work in preference to the more fortunate.

Since the federal election of 1935, no time has been lost in striving to provide work for our people, through the construction of public works which had been entirely neglected for five years under Tory rule, and by numerous other undertakings, some of which I shall enumerate later. In my constituency almost every federal wharf, with the exception of the one adjoining the business stand of the Tory member who then represented Kings, was either fenced off or had a danger sign posted on it.

With regard to defence, regardless of what our opponents in other groups may say, I believe the government should not engage in the manufacture of war material. We have white elephants enough on our hands in Canada. If we must have armaments, let there be competition, as in other public contracts, and let the work be done under honest and competent government inspection. Let there be no pets or favourites, or anything in the nature of a family compact. Large sums of money which are being asked for to provide for defence would then be spent to the best advantage. Let it not be said at some future time that some one has "plundered". I am not a military man, and shall leave the debate on this subject to those who think they know what should be done to meet any condition which may arise out of what is taking place in this confused and troubled world.

As other hon. members have said, the new trade agreement between the United States and Canada has yet to prove its beneficial effects. But we know the trade agreement of 1935 has helped to save the country from ruin through stagnation of trade, and we know the new trade agreement has been built on a firm foundation, and with the most friendly understanding between the English-speaking nations on this continent. It was surprising to hear the leader of the opposition condemn the abolition of the three per cent excise tax, which was one of the obnoxious taxes imposed on the people by the late government on top of all the rest of the taxes, and at a time when the people had been ruined by high tariff policies which