

lished between the means of the great mass of the consumers and the demands of the labourers; and that it was to be obtained only by a general levelling down of prices.

I think the honourable gentleman from Amherst (Hon. Mr. Curry), who addressed the House, said that the war was not the cause of or did not contribute to this unemployment. Well, I think it was the promotive cause. It was due to the lavish expenditure of money by the Government—necessitated, it is true, by the war—and also to the fact that a large number of young men and others were taken from their employment and sent to the war. They came back; they were unemployed; they waited on the liberality of the Government. In the meantime, a large number of them were supplanted by women—and the women have come to stay. The women filled situations that men occupied before. They worked for less pay, they were civil, and I have not heard of any general strike amongst them. They have retained the confidence of their employers, and the result is that a large number of people who worked in situations similar to those now occupied by women have lost their employment. This has all contributed to the general mass of the unemployed.

Now, I must shorten my remarks. I could go on much further. I must apply myself to the remedy. The Minister of Labour, who perhaps knows more of this question than anyone else in the House, suggested some superficial and obvious remedies. In the first place, he said that the farmers were to be urged to keep on their employes in the winter when they had no employment for them. The farmers are not built that way. They do not wish to pay out money when there is no return in work. They do not want ornamental hands around their farms, to drive into the neighbouring towns in automobiles and to come back at midnight or later. They want a fair return in products for the money they expend; and the money of the farmers is as well guarded as that of any other class of people.

Then the Minister said that there would be a movement of labour from places where there was a plethora of it to places where there was a scarcity. If the information and statistics upon these points were ready and available, some palliation of the situation might be obtained. But these are only temporary expedients; they are not enduring; they are not comprehensive. In certain cases temporary relief is the only method of removing distress, and in such

cases it must be availed of, because when a man is starving it is no use to tell him to go to a neighbouring city—that he can get work there; he must be relieved by some fund, or by money from somewhere.

Those were the remedies suggested by the Minister of Labour; but an extensive and effective remedy can only be secured by a general reduction of prices all round. Prices and costs must be adjusted to the resources of the people. Formerly there was a safety valve of relief in the fact that the excess of labour could go to the States; but a very costly and damaging remedy that was. Perhaps some of the best of our mechanics and vigorous young men went to the States and remained there. But now they cannot go to the States. The press of the United States, and all sorts of men there, have seen with dismay the advent of people from all parts of the country to the great cities, with a general excess of labour over employment. They want those people to go back to the farms to produce more. That unfortunate situation has been augmented by the constant stream of immigrants coming into the United States, so that there is an excess of people over the employment that can be offered to them. To-day there is no resort to the United States on the part of our employed.

One remedy not alluded to by the Minister of Labour is to keep on the farm the people who belong to the farm, and to give more encouragement to the young men already on the farm. Do not allow them to crowd into the cities. Inform them that there is already an excess of unemployed people in the cities, and tell them not to come. That would be a remedy.

But there is an evil to be contended with, one which has been much applauded in the press and by clergymen and other professional men, and that is the constant tendency of mothers of families in the country to give their sons professions. They say: "We have struggled all along in poverty, labouring hard, and exhausting ourselves; such-and-such a person is in Parliament; a very fortunate man has got into the Senate; the professional men are largely rewarded, they become rich, and we would like to have our sons advance and no longer be drudges on the farm." How are you going to correct that evil? I would suggest a remedy. It is that people should be willing to give fair remuneration for the cost and labour of producing farm products; to make comfortable the homes of those who have sons; to give them some of the amuse-