

Unemployment

potential Canadian market, the city of Montreal. At the present time, and for years, United States potatoes come into Canada completely duty free except for six weeks during the summer. During this winter large amounts of Maine potatoes were trucked across the international boundary to New Brunswick, coming in duty free, and were then shipped to the Montreal market under the benefit of the maritime freight rate. They were sold there at an advantage of about \$25 per carload compared to Canadian potatoes which were selling for the same price, due to the exchange on the United States dollar. Is it any wonder that we in the maritimes find it hard to compete under those conditions? Therefore I make the obvious suggestion as to how the situation might be improved.

Another thing we need in the maritimes in order to be able to compete as far as manufacturing is concerned is cheap power. There are a number of potential power sites in the maritime provinces, and encouragement should be given by the federal government to their development. In addition to these developments I should like to see an accelerated effort to devise some method of producing electrical power from coal by means of gas turbines or other methods. We have coal in surplus supply in the maritime provinces at the present time, and efforts should be made to bring about the development of electrical power from coal at a cost which would permit it to compete with hydro power.

I think it is fair to suggest that the federal government should see that a fair percentage of defence industries are located in the extremities of our country. I do not mean that industries should be dispersed, that existing plants should be closed down, uprooted and transplanted somewhere else, but I do mean that when new factories are required for the production of strategic war materials especially, serious consideration should be given to locating them in the more sparsely populated areas of the country. This would relieve the congested areas which are already tempting targets for bomber attacks.

In closing I want to say that given even reasonable encouragement we in the maritimes with our great resources, the size of which are only now being fully realized, can work out our own salvation but we must have a suitable economic environment so we can share fully in the fruits of our own endeavours.

Mr. Maurice Breton (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose in this speech to minimize the importance

[Mr. MacLean.]

which must be attached to this unemployment problem. On the contrary I am convinced that it is one of the most important of those which face our governments. Therefore I believe it may be of some use in this debate to gauge as precisely as possible the volume of present-day employment by looking back on its incidence in the country over the past 20 years. I have before me some figures provided by the dominion bureau of statistics giving the number of persons without jobs and seeking work in Canada during the period 1931-1954. The figures are for the month of June in each case. I would ask permission to place this table on *Hansard* in order to relieve me of the necessity of reading it in full.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. member permission to place this table on *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Breton: The table follows:

Persons Without Jobs and Seeking Work in Canada,
1931-1954

Date June	Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over
1931	475
1932	733
1933	817
1934	624
1935	618
1936	565
1937	406
1938	516
1939	523
1940	418
1941	193
1942	134
1943	75
1944	62
1945	72
1946	123
1947	91
1948	80
1949	100
1950	136*
1951	80
1952	105
1953	90
1954	185

*Newfoundland included in estimates commencing 1950; but Manitoba is excluded for June 1950 only due to flood conditions.

Source of estimates:

1931-1945—D.B.S. reference paper No. 23, "Canadian Labour Force Estimates 1931-1950";

1946-1953—Monthly bulletin on "The Labour Force", April 1954;

1954—Monthly bulletin on "The Labour Force", June 1954.

Mr. Blair: What is the source of those figures?

Mr. Breton: I obtained the figures from the dominion bureau of statistics, and I shall table the document I received from that source.