

*Supply—Labour*

I wish to pause for a moment at this point and deal in more detail with the textile industry because I believe this is an industry which was promised a great deal of assistance by hon. members opposite although the industry has received little or no assistance from the government. I draw attention to statements made by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and many other hon. gentlemen during two election campaigns as to what they would do to settle once and for all the injustices and inequalities which they claimed hampered the industry and to rectify everything that had been done by the former administration in so far as this industry is concerned.

If there is any doubt in the minds of hon. members on this question, let them listen to the words of the Prime Minister. He spoke to a group of 2,500 people in the city of Cornwall and, as reported in the *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder* of February 25, 1958, said:

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker told a crowd estimated at over 2,500 here last night that he saw no reason why protection cannot be provided for the textile industry.

Calling the textile industry "one of the great industries of our country," he said he could see no reason whatsoever that following representation to the tariff board why such action as is necessary cannot be taken to insure that no Canadian industry will be subjected to the injustice of dumping.

"I know well what it means to be unemployed," he told the crowd. "And you can be sure that as long as I am Prime Minister no person will suffer because of unemployment.

"We acted to protect the farmers against dumping of agricultural products in this country because we believed it unjust and unfair that the Canadian farmer should be subjected to unfair competition," he said.

The Prime Minister followed by explaining he could see no reason why the textile industry would not be treated the same way.

Listen to these words:

"My heart goes out to those people who are unemployed," he said. "I've kept my promises in the past. That promise that no one will suffer from unemployment as long as I am Prime Minister will be kept to the letter."

I am dealing now with the unemployment situation in the textile industry and not in the rest of Canada where there are 500,000 people out of employment. This was in 1958. Let us see what followed. Not more than two years afterwards every textile mill in the city of Cornwall had closed down. The Dundas mill, the Canada mill and the Glengarry mill closed their doors. Some 4,000 people were put out of work. Textile mills also closed down in the maritimes, in Hamilton and in the Ottawa valley. In case some hon. members think I am exaggerating

[Mr. Chevrler.]

let me quote from a statement of the president of Canadian Cottons Limited as reported in the *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder* of May 28, 1959:

Substantial reductions in operations, including the closing of some mills, are planned by Canadian Cottons, Limited...

Total volume of sales was almost exactly the same last year as during the previous year. "However, business has become increasingly competitive, prices have been low and the flow of imports from the United States and low-wage countries have increased in volume."

Operations in Hamilton will be discontinued... "The yarn mill will be closed and all activity in Hamilton will be discontinued by the end of the year."

The small yarn mill at Saint John, New Brunswick, has been closed, and the Rosamond woollen mill at Almonte, Ontario, has been sold. There will be reductions in certain lines of products now made in Cornwall."

Following this statement by the president of Canadian Cottons Limited the three mills to which I referred—the Canada mill, the Dundas mill and the Glengarry mill—closed their doors in rapid succession. People who had been employed all their lives in the mills and who did not know how to do anything else were left without employment. Some of these workers had been employed in the mills for as long as 47 years. We were told in the eastern townships of the province of Quebec, in eastern Ontario and in this chamber that the government would move to do away with this situation. We were told this was the object of the anti-dumping regulations which were passed in this house.

The Minister of Finance indicated the other day in a report that despite the anti-dumping regulations Japanese competition had been very serious during 1959. Notwithstanding the fact that the anti-dumping regulations were passed they were not used in certain instances and, as I see it, even if they had been used they would have done little because the situation could not be met by such regulations. It is now up to the government to do something about the situation. I am beginning to wonder if the situation that obtains in the industries I mentioned—the textile industry, the uranium industry, the aviation industry and the coal industry—has not come about as a result of the government having adopted the wrong policies. If it has it should move at once to remedy the situation.

In addition to the statements made by the Prime Minister to which I referred there are other statements to which I should like to draw the attention of the committee. The Prime Minister assured the people of this