

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

war are to-day in better condition—they received the proper remedy.

If the minister can tell me how many white-collar men are out of work, I will sit down. How does he intend to take care of these men? Does he intend to employ them as Volga boatmen on the St. Lawrence scheme?

An hon. MEMBER: Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: It is below the intelligence of the hon. member to make the answer he has.

Does the minister think that these men will be able to do pick and shovel work on the St. Lawrence? They could not do it because they have not had the necessary training. If this government desires order to be restored, there is only one way in which it can bring about that result. The work of the government should be divided among the members of the cabinet instead of being done by a single man, however able. This government should adopt the practice carried out by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) when his government was in power, and by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden. It is only fair that members of the cabinet should share in the work of government. The matter is vital to the country and this method should be adopted. I do not make these suggestions to annoy the committee and the minister, I am simply trying to make the minister understand. Even though he were the greatest physician in the country, he could not cure a disease without first knowing what it was. Each angle of this unemployment question should be considered separately and the minister should take the trouble to obtain as soon as possible the information which I desire. As a matter of fact, this information should have been obtained immediately the government came into power.

A special committee made a study of the unemployment question for a short time after this government took office. One of its recommendations was that immigration should be stopped. I am glad to see the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bourgeois) in his place because this is the first opportunity I have had to welcome him to this house. He is a perfect gentleman and my only regret is that his political principles are wrong. During his last election campaign he paid a compliment to this government by stating that it had stopped immigration. What did the Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Gordon) say to that? He said that this government would never close the

[Mr. Pouliot.]

door to Englishmen who wanted to come to this country. The minister is bringing young boys out here. It is true that they have the money to pay their passage but he cannot guarantee that they will not in the future be a charge upon this country. Perhaps he should take a position as purser on one of the boats which carry these young Englishmen to this country. I think the salary would be high enough.

An hon. MEMBER: Not high enough.

Mr. POULIOT: My hon. friend says it would not be high enough. The statement was made in Three Rivers that the government had stopped immigration. The government lets young men from the British Isles come in and I have no objection to them provided that they come here in times of prosperity and do not take the place of our own people.

One minister who has the greatest task ahead of him is the Minister of Trade and Commerce, provided he receives some cooperation from his colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, in order that Canadian trade may increase. When that is brought about, unemployment will disappear and the troubles from which the Canadian National Railways are at present suffering will be removed. Those are plain facts.

Although I have been in Ottawa for several years, this is the first winter that I have met on the streets so many men asking for direct help. We do not see that to such an extent in other cities. They come to Ottawa for assistance as to the Mecca of unemployment relief. They expect by coming here, to the seat of government, to get a job. It is very sad to see those men who seem to be in good health, humiliated to have to ask for charity from a stranger. Patience can exist for a certain time but no one can tell how long that will be. We have in each province law-abiding people, people who respect our institutions, and who look to the star of hope expecting that some day or another their miseries will come to an end. In every home there is a woman who has more worry than any of us can have, trying to make both ends of the family budget meet. With small pay, sometimes with one or two dollars obtained from relief sources, they try to carry on so that their children may be fed and clothed. How long will this last? The other day I saw a young woman who had threatened to commit suicide. She was taken in by a woman whose husband was out of work and who was doing sewing. People in these circumstances realize the links that unite