

The necessity for this legislation is self-evident. The report of the Industrial Relations Commission shows this very clearly, and their recommendations will, I feel sure, be immediately given effect to by necessary legislation brought before this House when the work of the Industrial Congress which has been called together is finished.

Organized labour is playing the game, even as they so manfully placed the game in their participation in the war. Of the great army which Canada sent overseas to put into effect the great principle of right, seventy per cent came from the ranks of labour. True organized labour still contends for right. They are rapidly casting off the false Bolsheviki doctrine advocated by the One Big Union, which is declining as rapidly as it rose. They still, however, have their objectives, and their principal objectives are just and laudable ones. Chief among them are statutory regulation of hours of labour, establishment of minimum wage, insurance against unemployment and insurance against old age. The first two objectives are dealt with in the treaty and no one can justly deny the right of labour to receive these rights.

We are told by scientists that two great basic and primal instincts survive in the human race to-day. One is the instinct of self-preservation. It is deeply implanted in all of us. The margin of safety to the worker—what is necessary to maintain life—is miserably small. The nightmare of unemployment is ever before him—the great and constant fear that he and his dependents may feel the gnawing canker of actual want. This calamity must be provided against by the State and that constant fear removed from the mind of labour.

The men leading organized labour are safe and sane men; I have sat in council with them in my own constituency and in the city of Victoria. Their mentality is sound, and they are certain of the justice of their demands. I would like to see labour represented in this House; I do not think it is to the credit either of the people of Canada or of our present system of representation that the condition in this regard should remain as it is. It seems to my mind an anomaly that the great proportion of our population occupying the ranks of labour should be without direct representation in Parliament. Not only is it their right that they should have that representation, but it would make for the safety and stability of our nation.

I am glad to know that the Board of Commerce is performing the functions for

[Mr. McIntosh.]

which it was created, and I trust that its powers may be amplified if found necessary.

The fundamental cause of the extraordinarily high cost of living is undoubtedly the lack of production during the war and the destruction of so much material wealth throughout the world. This condition, however, has been aggravated by the selfish greed of those who took advantage of the opportunities which the war afforded them. This is something which should be strongly repressed; I trust that the work of the newly-created Board of Commerce will be effective in curbing this menace.

The high cost of living bears harshly upon the worker. It may be said that wages have advanced concurrently with the increase in the cost of living. That is not strictly true, because the increase in wages generally takes place a considerable time after increases in the prices of commodities necessary to life are made effective.

Then again, if unemployment takes place or there is only intermittent or casual employment, suffering is sure to ensue. The great fear of actual want is more oppressive than ever before upon the mind of the worker.

The dean of all newspaper men, Colonel Henry Watterson, fondly as "Marse Henry," the friend of men of letters and the companion of statesmen, in his reminiscences now being published, declares civilization to be balanced on the edge of a precipice, either to go upwards to higher things or to go down to a thousand years of barbarism. I do not agree with this. Civilization must be ever upward, no downward plunge awaits it. It should, however, be our constant care to guard against any retrograde movement by taking care of conditions as they arise and not allow irritation to grow into open discontent. I have every faith in the mental stability of the Canadian people to safely override any storm which may arise.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that, having in view the purpose for which this Parliament is summoned, no hon. member on this side of the House will have any fault to find with the text of the speech from the Throne. I am further sure that no hon. member will have any fault to find with the speeches made by the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne. For many years I have had the pleasure of being in this House, and I have listened to