

*Unemployment in Maritimes*

measure during the war what we can do when given the opportunity. Many industries grew where there were facilities to support them. The population was swollen because of these wartime industries, and in the light of all the factors I think the employment situation, though serious, is remarkably good. Certainly it does not compare with the gloomy picture which our C.C.F. friends have painted since long before the war ended. There is in some quarters a complex going back to the days of confederation. There are those people who say that we suffered because of confederation. Many people are beginning to feel that it is more an imagined than a factual consideration. It is true that Nova Scotia is at a disadvantage; we all admit that. We are at the end of a long, slow rail haul and distance makes it difficult to put our products on the central Canadian market. However, there is a trend toward small industry in Nova Scotia. I think it is most unfair to those people who are really trying to do something in the maritimes to have this picture of gloom painted time after time in this house and publicized across the country to give the impression that nobody is trying to do anything. Actually a great deal of good work is being done day in and day out.

Mr. GILLIS: They are not permitted to do anything.

Mr. WINTERS: The hon. member for Cape Breton South sits in his seat and smiles when I say that a great deal of good work is being done and I think he does not believe that. Probably he does not believe that in my constituency there is a great resurgence in the spirit of the people. They have settled down to business. Many undertakings have been started in Nova Scotia through private enterprise. In other instances, substantial businesses have been started with government assistance. Hon. members know what has been done in the way of cold storage plants in the Annapolis valley which were established by a combination of government assistance and private enterprise. Cold storage plants for the fishing industry have also been set up. As we all know, the fishing industry is in a critical position at the moment because of the grave danger of oversupply. Inventories are high. I think, if the plant had been established on the wharf which the hon. member for Cape Breton South talks about, the difficulties in that particular field would still not be overcome.

In connection with public works, I think anyone who examines the estimates for this year will say that Nova Scotia has not fared

[Mr. Winters.]

too badly. I can see no grounds for saying that this government has not cooperated in the interests of Nova Scotia. The hon. member for Cape Breton South is not in position to know all this government has done, because of his predicament as a lone member of his party. There is a great deal to be done in Nova Scotia; we all acknowledge that. There is that important project which my hon. friend speaks of so often—the causeway across the strait of Canso. That is something we all want to see go forward because it would create employment and result in lasting benefits. The hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) said he did not believe that the type of solution advocated by the hon. member for Cape Breton South would be the lasting answer to the problem and, generally speaking, that is true. We will not accept temporary solutions when we can have more in the way of permanency.

A causeway across the strait of Canso would provide an economic channel between Cape Breton and Nova Scotia to central Canada, and we are all in favour of it for that reason.

I do not intend to make any extended remarks at this time; I simply wanted to dispel some of the feeling of gloom which the hon. member for Cape Breton South so constantly sheds over this house. Every hon. member, whether he is from Nova Scotia or elsewhere, knows that the situation is serious, but there is no lack of cooperation. If we look at the bright side of this problem and fight it together we shall come out on the winning side.

Mr. W. GARFIELD CASE (Grey North): Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege last fall to visit the maritimes for the first time, and I feel I would be remiss in my appreciation of those great provinces if I did not put in a little plug for them at this time. I want to follow along the lines advocated by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor), the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Winters) and the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks). I feel that anyone from the maritimes need make no apologies for their great community. We travelled through New Brunswick, on to Prince Edward Island and then through Nova Scotia.

Anyone who is privileged to visit those provinces is bound to be impressed by the wealth of resources of the people. They have a wealth of natural resources; there are timber resources, natural industries, the dairying industry, the mining industry and, above all, there is the wealth they have in their people.