

Unemployment in Maritimes

They intended to go into the canning of pork and beans which would have meant employment for some twenty or thirty people. They have been waiting for over a year for a molasses quota. The building and equipment are standing idle; no molasses quota has yet been furnished.

A few days ago I questioned the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) in the house about an established industry in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Topper Industries Limited. They were canning chicken. Their market was largely an export one. They were refused an export permit and had to swing over into the processing of pork and beans; but they were refused a permit to go into that business by an order in council which was passed in 1941. If you were not in that business in 1941 you cannot start a new business in that line. They are standing idle. They employed some sixty people and they are now waiting some word as to whether they may proceed.

Mr. HACKETT: That is a shame.

Mr. GILLIS: The Minister of Finance made it quite clear to the house a few days ago that no permit will be granted. These sixty people are unemployed.

On the other hand, there is a plant in Truro, Nova Scotia, which could manufacture ice-cream cones. The young man went over to the United States and studied the process of making that particular commodity. He bought equipment and invested \$35,000 in it. He has been waiting for a year for his sugar quota. He cannot operate because he cannot get a sugar quota, and there is not another plant like it in the maritime provinces.

Hon. members talk about free enterprise in a free economy. Is it free? Is there any competition there? That is not control; that is dictatorship on behalf of central Ontario and Quebec manufacturers.

An hon MEMBER: That is what you want, more control.

Mr. GILLIS: That is dictatorship; that is the bureaucracy we are trying to smash.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): That is what you have been after all the time, more controls.

Mr. GILLIS: I have the answer as to why we are not allowed to process pork and beans in the maritime provinces. It is contained in a letter from a commission merchant of Sydney, Nova Scotia. He gives the reasons, but I shall not read them all. He cannot understand why the canning of pork and beans in New Glasgow cannot be proceeded with. There is no shortage of cans. The plant has

[Mr. Gillis.]

400,000 cans on hand. There is plenty of molasses and plenty of beans, but it cannot get the permit because of an order in council which was passed in 1941. When the minister telegraphed the Canadian Legion which protested against this thing he said that it would not be fair to those already established in the business. That is pretty plain language.

As I say, this letter, is from Sydney, Nova Scotia, and is dated June 6. The commission merchant says that he cannot understand why they could not go into the business in New Glasgow, but he says that the reason may be this:

This week, Stoker-Van Camp Inc., a U.S.A. controlled company, operating in Ontario have to date this year brought into Sydney for distribution through local wholesalers 8,000 cases of Van Camp's pork and beans, not taking into consideration the thousands of cases of canned pork and beans brought into Sydney by Clarks, Heinz's, Canada Packers and Dominion and Canadian Cannery Ltd., besides thousands of cases from independent small Quebec and Ontario packers, but, with the exception of small L.C.L. shipments from Lanes Ltd., Moncton, New Brunswick, none from the maritimes. The W.P.T.B. refused to allow my customer, Brennan & Company, North Sydney, Nova Scotia, to bring in a car of white beans I secured for Brennan from Gorman, Chatham, Ontario. Car was stopped at Montreal. The following week, Canada Packers, Sydney, distributed a car of white beans—

—in the same city, but they confiscated his car and put it to one side in Montreal. Every control that was exercised by this government during the war and that would protect the people of this country has been thrown out. Price controls have all gone out the window, but there have been maintained, behind the scenes, controls that protect the capitalists of this country. I am not concerned about the wealth that Canada Packers, Swift Canadian Company, or any of the rest of them have. The thing that I have always protested against is the power that they exercise behind the scenes to stop the people of this country from creating new wealth themselves. I have given four examples of it tonight which have cropped up during the last couple of months where restrictive legislation in sugar and molasses quotas, export permits and a permit to operate these little plants demonstrates the control from behind the scenes in the interests of the big packers and processors in the two central provinces to the detriment of the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. That is why I am speaking tonight. This is important and urgent. Surely if we cannot force either the federal or the provincial governments to accept responsibility for 30,000 citizens of this country who have not the means of livelihood because of restrictions behind the scenes which prevent people who