

the relief rates paid that are competing with wages, the highest relief scale paid anywhere in Canada, and the relief rates in force at present in the two largest cities of each province in Canada. If he will do that, we shall be able to make a comparison and see just in what areas the relief rates are competing with wage rates, because such a situation does not speak well for conditions in Canada, nor does it speak well for the record of this government.

Mr. R. J. DEACHMAN (Huron North): I found the report of the national employment commission particularly interesting. The last six pages are a mine of useful information on the distribution of the national income in the Dominion of Canada. As I turned over the pages of the report to-day, I noticed this peculiar fact, that the civil service now takes 1.52 per cent of the national income, which is thirty-eight per cent more than in 1926. Then I turned back to page 110, the last page of the report, which seems to be the natural place for them to put the farmer, and I found that after adjusting the gross figure to the net, the farmers' income now constitutes only 7.5 per cent of the national income. So, if in Canada we had five times as many civil servants as we have, they would be receiving a total income greater than that of the 728,000 farmers who produce so much of the national wealth of the dominion.

Let us turn back and look over these pages, because they reveal some very interesting things about the distribution of our national income. The other day I mentioned that the wages of money had declined; in fact, the wages of money and the earnings of the farmer apparently, are the only two things in the dominion which have declined in the last few years. The wages of money, or the real value to the receiver of interest, stood at 100 in 1926, and according to this report it had dropped to 97.8 in 1936. I mentioned the income of the civil servant, based upon the proportion which he took of the national wealth; but when we come to the purchasing power in 1926 dollars of the average earnings of the civil servant of to-day, we find that he or she is getting 24.6 per cent more than he or she received in 1926. In the average earnings of the manufacturing industry the change is not so great. Based upon the 1926 level the worker receives 108.6; but, as is usually the case during a period of relatively hard times, the salaried gentlemen, the brass hats of industry, are drawing 12.1 per cent more than in 1926. In regard to the employees of the railroads, their rate is 17.4 per cent above the 1926 level. At no time since that year have they fallen to the 1926 level, and for

the last three years their figure has stood, first at 114.4, or fourteen per cent above the 1926 level; than 11.7 per cent above and now 17.4 per cent above. In regard to the farmers I mentioned that their income had fallen to 7.5 per cent of the total national income; but if we turn to the purchasing power of 100 units of farm products we find that on the basis of 1926 equalling 100 they paid 144.2 for 100 units of manufactured goods in 1932. In 1933 they paid 137; in 1934 the figure stood at 124. Now it has dropped to 106.1.

I wonder where the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Massey) is. I should think this would appeal to him. He was cradled on the sheaf carrier of a Massey-Harris binder. He is familiar with these implements. He ought to be in intense sympathy with the farmers in Canada to-day. He has a face which indicates that at least he has some of the milk of human kindness, even though he did not come from a farm. But this much is certain; when he looks at these figures he sees the condition of agriculture growing worse, while industry manages to keep up. I often wonder why these men who have been so closely associated in an indirect way with agricultural industry, do not pause to reflect upon the conditions existing to-day. I wonder why they fail to realize that the greatest thing that could possibly happen for manufacturing and industry of every kind in Canada is not, as the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Ross) said to-night with up-raised hands—Stop dumping; do not let goods come in, but keep everything out. Rather it is that there should be a larger measure of freedom of exchange, so that the farmer might exchange the products which he produces for the products of the manufacturer. Thus we could restore industry once more to a normal balance.

What are we doing in regard to this question of unemployment? It strikes me that everything we have done since 1930 has been done with the idea of causing unemployment rather than curing it. I suggest that we attack the problem from a slightly different angle. We have been making a frontal attack; we have attempted to cure unemployment by digging up jobs for men, which is just about as good a means of causing unemployment as one could possibly devise. I suggest that we move a little to the rear, or to the right or left flank, and see if we cannot make an attack from an angle different from anything we have had before. The remedies we have tried, as I have stated, are all specific causes of unemployment. What are they? Well, in 1930 we started with higher tariffs, and we continued with higher