

present quite a problem, but I will bear in mind the observations he has made and will see how far we can go along the lines he indicates.

Mr. CHURCH: Let me make a further suggestion. Under "peace, order and good government" the minister, by the War Measures Act, can take absolute control of these prices in Canada and can take action with regard to moratorium, wages, rents and so forth. There is no doubt about it. Let him act; let him try it, and see who will appeal. He has the power under the "peace, order and good government" provision, notwithstanding any laws, statutes, usages or customs of the country.

Mr. McNEVIN: I realize that the provincial governments, through their departments of labour, have control over hours of work, minimum wages and so forth, but in connection particularly with construction works under the federal government, I should like to know whether the rates of pay of time and a half for overtime and double time for Sunday still apply.

Mr. McLARTY: The question of wages is one for the provinces except in so far as it may affect works carried on directly by the government of Canada. We have set up the national labour supply council whose duty it is to endeavour to work out a definite arrangement with regard to time and overtime, and I am sure they will discharge that duty properly.

Mr. McNEVIN: As regards pay of time and a half for overtime and double pay for Sunday work, the regulation was adopted in order to restrain an employer from imposing upon his employees, but so far as these government works are concerned, that provision, I believe, should be left out of consideration entirely. At a time when we are asking the Canadian people to make great sacrifices, to buy war savings stamps, and when we are paying our soldiers \$1.30 a day, we should be careful on these large construction works to see that workmen are fairly treated. I am not in favour of overtime if there are people unemployed, but if there are people who are employed overtime and on Sunday the regular rates of pay should prevail, and I believe the Canadian people would support the idea.

Mr. BLACKMORE: What are the latest figures with regard to unemployment in Canada? Do they indicate any fall in unemployment? I should like to know the trend of unemployment.

Mr. McLARTY: Naturally it is down. What I had in mind was a composite picture

of a large number of cities representing about 60 per cent of those on relief. I could place that on *Hansard*, but I dislike to clutter up the record. The figures indicate a definite reduction as between the figures we were discussing when the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act was being debated and the figures as at the end of July.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Do the minister's figures concern those on relief or those who are employed?

Mr. McLARTY: They concern those on relief. The employment figures of the Department of Labour relate to those who are in receipt of welfare. I do not propose to give all the figures unless it is the wish of the committee, but will give just enough to indicate the trend of the reduction in the number of those receiving relief. I shall be glad to give that for any particular city or community, but generally I might say that as between March and July the percentage of reduction in those unemployed and in receipt of welfare is substantial.

I know the hon. member for Vancouver East is anxious to ask the question. Those figures are within the purview of the dominion bureau of statistics; the figures I can give are of those receiving welfare. I shall be glad to give any figures any hon. member would like to have.

Mr. MacINNIS: What is the latest date for which the minister has figures?

Mr. McLARTY: The latest date is the end of July, 1940, for forty-one cities in Canada. The average rate of reduction is 34.6 per cent. I shall be glad to give the statistics for any particular city that hon. members would like to have and that happens to be included in the list.

Mr. MacINNIS: I submit that the figures the minister has are not worth the ink it took to print them. They give the numbers of those receiving relief, but there are many people who are not receiving relief but who are yet unemployed. Those are the people in whom I am interested, the people who are unemployed but are not getting relief. The people receiving relief have at least something to get by on. The bureau of statistics gives the only real figures we have in regard to the number unemployed, and these are only estimates. They show a substantial increase in the numbers employed at the beginning of July, but do not give the figures of those unemployed. The latest figures we have from the bureau of statistics are for the end of May. At that time the bureau estimated that there were 305,000 persons unemployed. There may be thousands of these who are not receiv-