

other results it may have, will result in increased unemployment in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. MacNICOL: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. STEWART: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we are now giving concessions for concessions which we are getting from the United States, and which concessions we should have secured in 1935 for the concessions we then gave.

Much has been said on the question of unemployment, and I can add very little to the enormous volume of criticism that has already been expressed in this house. The undertone of speeches even of the supporters of the government has, with very few exceptions, been one of disappointment, an expression of failure, and the hope that something may be done to improve conditions. It has been pointed out that the promises that were made in this connection have not been fulfilled. What about the commission that was to have administered unemployment relief? It has not materialized. Trade expansion, so far as there has been any, has failed to solve the problem of unemployment. Our young people have not been set to work.

I want to refer particularly with one group of unemployed, the transients. A plan of dealing with this class was adopted by the former government by the establishment of relief camps. It was never contended, Mr. Speaker, that that was the ideal solution, but it was an effort to do something at least for these helpless, homeless, hopeless people who were roving over the Dominion of Canada from coast to coast, riding on freight trains, travelling up and down the highways, homeless in every sense of the word. The municipalities would not recognize them; the provinces disclaimed responsibility. So the dominion government of that day said: This is a problem with which we should deal; we will establish places where these poor helpless and homeless men can be provided with food, clothing, shelter and medical attendance until they find work.

Some agitation grew up inside the camps; but worse still, the political agitation in this house and outside of it became so strong that, purely for political purposes, the opposition of that day determined to destroy the usefulness of those camps, and they succeeded. When they came into office they abolished them, as they had said they would do, but they failed to provide any substitute. Since then these people have been wandering over the country,

giving trouble in the municipalities, begging, getting into prison and all sorts of trouble. This government has particularly failed in recognizing its responsibility and its duty to the municipalities, to the provinces and to this group of unemployed. The Minister of Labour on one or two occasions intimated that camps might be reestablished, on a different basis. I suggest to him in good faith that he consider doing that now. He asked for suggestions, and has been given many in this house. Even the suggestions and recommendations of the employment commission have not been adopted. I have perhaps no reason to hope that he will adopt any suggestion of mine on this occasion, however I give it to him for what it is worth and in good faith.

I suggest that even at this late date—and it is three years too late—he reestablish the camps for these single homeless friendless men. Let him establish them on any condition that he likes. If the camps that were established were not on a sound and proper basis, surely he can devise some other basis. Surely he can find something better than public buildings in which to shelter these men. I suggest that, having established the camps, the men be taken into them, cared for, trained and strengthened, and that work be found for them. Let me suggest one way of finding work, namely that the government embark upon a program of building secondary roads throughout the dominion. The trans-Canada highway of course must be completed, but there are thousands of miles of secondary roads in Ontario and other provinces that are in bad condition. These unemployed in the different localities could be set to work, and as far as necessary drafts could be made from the central camps of small mobile units of trained men for the purpose of improving the highways throughout the province.

Many excuses are given for the continuance of unemployment. They say the attitude of the provinces is hostile, we have not had the measure of cooperation that we should have had, there have been crop failures, and all the other excuses outlined in the speech from the throne. We did not hear of these between 1930 and 1935, although the same causes were there in just as aggravated a form, or more so than at present. But then everything was blamed, not upon drought or any other causes, but upon the tariff policies of the Bennett government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. STEWART: I am sorry, but I do not desire to trespass upon the rule. I shall take