

ber of parliament and he had no right whatever to write such impudent words as these:

Aucun bon but ne semble avoir été atteint par cette action de votre part—No good purpose seems to have been served by this action on your part.

May I suggest that if this gentleman wishes to avoid trouble so far as this side of the house is concerned, he had better discharge his duties in accordance with the traditions of the civil service. He should be guided by that very excellent principle that is being observed by the civil service, namely, to serve the people. A civil servant should be, above all, civil.

The Minister of Labour showed considerable intelligence—and when I say the Minister of Labour I am referring, of course, to the present minister's predecessor—in having his work done by others. During the last campaign the present Prime Minister used to declare, "I will do this, I will do that"; it was the same old refrain that was heard in every city, town, parish, borough and municipality in the country, and at every street corner: "I will do this, and I will do that." And when he came into power, to his great surprise, the people said to him: "We expect you to do this, and we expect you to do that." But what did he do? He sheltered himself behind the provinces and the municipalities. He asked them to come to his assistance, and he called to the council chamber my good friend, Senator Robertson, and said to him, "Senator, I rely on you: you must arrange this for me." The Senator said, "That's all right; we will arrange it with the provinces. The provinces will bear the burden of the administration of this whole unemployment scheme. We will subscribe our share and the municipalities will do as much as the provinces and the federal government together." Now the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the Department of Labour has only to ask the Minister of Finance for one fourth of the money that is to be spent for unemployment purposes, the relief fund being administered by the provinces who contribute their share to it. He need ask for only one quarter of that and then he will not have to worry about the administration of the fund because the whole thing will be done by the provinces. I thank the Minister of Labour for listening to my remarks instead of writing hieroglyphics on a piece of paper. I defy him to say that this is not the case.

I have something else to say about Mr. Hereford. That gentleman blamed me for forwarding some of the requests which I had received from the municipalities before the

order in council defining the jurisdiction of the federal and provincial governments had been passed. When I asked him to return these files to me he replied under date of September 7, 1931, that he was keeping copies in order to show them to the minister. If the trouble I had taken was superfluous, if Mr. Hereford did not need copies of the documents I had sent to him, why did he make copies to be submitted to the Minister of Labour?

I am sorry it was necessary for me to be a little rough with the minister at the beginning of my remarks, but I had to do that in order to gain his attention. Is the minister in a position to tell the committee how many white-collar unemployed there are in this country? I will define what I mean by that term. I mean the clerks who were working in stores, in brokers' offices or anywhere—

An hon. MEMBER: Nowhere.

Mr. POULIOT: These men are unemployed and the hon. member should not make fun of them.

How many are now unemployed who were previously employed by grocery stores, by drygoods stores and wholesale establishments? How many commercial travellers have lost their jobs because of the decrease in trade? How many railroad employees have been put out of work while profiteers were selling ties to the Canadian National Railways which was supposed to be in such bad condition? These are matters of great importance, and for the third time I repeat that they are of great importance to the government if it is sincere.

If this government intends to relieve unemployment it should get to the root of the evil. It should know the cause of all this trouble; it should know why these people have lost their jobs. The minister should be able to advise the committee how many of this class are out of work. There are thousands, in fact tens of thousands unemployed at the present time. This information is not new to the minister, and I am trying to impress upon him that the only way to cure unemployment is to get to the root of the evil and then try to remove the causes. As I have said before in this house, during the war some soldiers were wounded by bullets while others were gassed, shell-shocked or received other injuries, but the same remedy was not applied to all. Every case was studied by expert physicians and surgeons and every man received the treatment which was best suited to his case. That is why many of the men wounded during the