

gested that posters be put up in the post offices, which are to be found in every nook and corner throughout the country, advising the farmers to apply for labour at certain provincial centres. It has been aptly remarked by the honourable gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Roche) that the farmer has as much business acumen as any other individual in the country, and that if he needs labour for only three months he will not pay for it for twelve months. Yet, if he makes application at a town where unemployment exists to-day, and where it is likely to continue to exist, the advantage will be that those unemployed will be informed where work is to be had during the summer, and the call will doubtless appeal to thousands among them who were on the land up to four or five years ago, and a certain proportion of whom would feel that, instead of starving or begging in the streets of our towns and cities, it would be opportune and necessary for them to return to the land, either singly or with their families. I think this is an excellent idea. Many of these people, who have felt the pinch of poverty in the towns and cities, will be attracted anew to the land, and will perhaps decide to remain there and follow their old vocations. I cannot too strongly urge upon the representatives of the Government in this Chamber the suggestion that a campaign be carried on by means of posters in the post offices, notifying the farmers that by making application to the various provincial employment bureaus they can get labour.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Does my honourable friend know that that was done two and a-half years ago?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not aware of that, but I am sure my honourable friend will realize that the ground is now far better prepared for such a campaign as has been suggested when thousands of men are walking the streets of our towns and cities looking for employment.

The honourable gentleman from Halifax said that many of the people who might be recalled to the land would find in the autumn, after the crops were gathered in, that they would be left to shift for themselves; but surely a large proportion of them would rather remain about the villages and the countryside, doing little odd jobs during the winter, than go back and fall into the queues in order to reach a soup kitchen in Toronto or Montreal.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, I do not propose to take part in this discussion. I merely want to draw the attention of the Chairman of the Committee to the last two lines of the Committee's report. It says:

and request that the next Session they be empowered to continue their inquiry to the extent that conditions will then call for.

That is not the regular form in which reports are brought in, and, if the honourable gentleman would consent to strike out those words, the report would be much more in keeping with our ordinary procedure.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I am perfectly willing, because I understand that we cannot in one Session bind ourselves as to the proceedings during the next Session.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: May I be allowed to draw the attention of the Government and of the Labour Department to one fact? It is alleged that the manufacturers have materially reduced their prices, and have written off their losses by drawing on their reserves or credits in order to sell goods at prices based on the present cost of raw materials. It is alleged that in very many lines the wholesalers have reduced their sale figures similarly. But it is alleged that the retailers—and the biggest ones at that, the departmental stores—have not made similar reductions in their prices to the consumer. I may for their justification say that, while they are taking a large profit on these lines, they are trying to adjust their losses on other lines in which the costs have not come down, or on those parts of their stock which they bought at high peak prices. Yet I will mention one line which the public purchases largely, and that is cotton. In cotton, prices have come down materially; the old stocks have been sold, and the new stocks are on the shelves; but, according to my information, the prices to the consumer have not been reduced. I mention that because it seems to me that cotton is a commodity which the people need, and I should like to know what justification there is for the action of these departmental stores in keeping up prices on that commodity.

The motion was agreed to, and the report was concurred in.

The Senate adjourned until 2.30 p.m. this day.