

schools and colleges every year and for whom there is neither hope nor work under present conditions. There is nothing ahead of them but despair and disaster. Canada can be happy in the fact that materially no nation is more satisfactorily situated. We have the vast resources which hon. gentlemen are very proud to discuss during elections and even at other times. We have a vast heritage of artificial energy which is almost untouched. In addition we have a population who have to their credit the desire to produce the services and goods required by the nation. The charge against the Canadian people of general idleness cannot be sustained by anyone in the world. As a matter of fact, there are only two indolent classes to-day: there is one per cent at the top who do not have to provide any services and less than one-half per cent at the very bottom who are for pathological reasons unwilling to render services.

I have not the time to paint a complete picture of the possibilities of this country. I have mentioned mechanization but hon. gentlemen know as much about that as I do. Mechanization would never have come into being nor could it continue without the extension and progressive development of artificial energy. We can almost forget steam it is now being superseded by electrical power. A new form of energy infinitely more important, more powerful, more easily concentrated, immensely cheaper and terrifically more efficient. A few years ago I read an estimate by Lord Rothermere, I think in the Daily Mail. He stated that at that time the United States was using some 29,000,000 horsepower of electrical energy in industry. It was estimated that this meant the equivalent of 290,000,000 human workers represented by this one form of energy. I hope hon. gentlemen get the import of that fact. A population of 126,000,000 men, women and children have in electrical power the equivalent of 290,000,000 human workers. This is on the engineering basis of one horse-power equalling ten adult human work units.

I was so much interested in that estimate that I asked our own Dominion Statistician, Mr. Coats, than whom there is no better, to tell me what had happened in Canada and in the world in general along these lines. The last year for which world figures could be obtained was 1931, and by that year the use of electrical energy in the world had increased to a point where it equalled 1,500,000,000 men. The total population of the world is estimated at roughly 2,000,000,000. Among vast and varied resources, Canada is the happy

possessor of what I think is the second greatest essential in modern commercial life. The first essential is purchasing power and the second is this form of power known as hydro-electric energy. We have so far but scratched the surface of the possibilities of power development in Canada. We stand in the row of nations second in the potential production of electricity; for at this day we have approximately 7,330,000 horse power developed and ready for production or, and hon. gentlemen will note this, the equivalent of 73,000,000 human workers. And this in a population of less than 11,000,000. Every man, woman and child in Canada, under a decently ordered state of society, might have as an electrical ally the equivalent of the power of 7 men, ready to do their work and their bidding for them, tirelessly, ceaselessly, day after day, night after night, at the pressing of a button or the pulling of a lever. And this is not something that can be exhausted; it is not something like a gold mine or any other sort of mine; nor can it be depleted like the fertility of the soil. It is as permanent as the lakes and rivers in our land. It is the most valuable of all the resources we have at the present time, and we have it to a superabundant degree.

I need not dwell on the introduction of the third chief form of artificial power, the internal combustion engine; but hon. gentlemen who come from the west no doubt know the tremendous effect it has in extending the area of cultivation and in increasing the capacity of the individual farmer not only to handle a far greater acreage than before but to produce far greater quantities of all field crops.

We have in Canada everything necessary for human life, almost everything necessary for our comforts; we have these vast resources in the form of electrical and other artificial power; we have a splendid population, people anxious to do any work required; yet we have misery and hunger, approaching absolute destitution, despair, creeping old age of penury, relying on a form of state charity. I do not think that this sort of thing can be called Christian. A system that condemns the people, in the midst of plenty, to a condition of penury and utter poverty is not a Christian system, and no one dare make that argument for it. And here we are engaged in the gentle and delightful practice of committing what I am bound to term sacrilege; for after the bountifulness of the Almighty has blessed the nation with an abundance of all the things that people need, the only answer of our statesman to Him is to throw His bounty back in His face by destroy-