

Mr. MITCHELL: Would my hon. friend quote percentages in Canada. He has quoted percentages in Great Britain, and I wonder if he has the same information in both cases.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: These are the percentage increases since 1938.

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not like to interrupt my hon. friend, but when he quotes wage rates in one country I think he should quote wage rates in the other, instead of quoting wage rates in one country and percentages in the other.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister knows the wage rates are different in the two countries.

Mr. MITCHELL: Yes, I know something of wage rates in England.

Mr. COLDWELL: And the cost of living is different; rents are different, and so on.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: The point I am making is that while in this country wage rates have been frozen in order to prevent inflation, in England they have been allowed to rise as much as 60 per cent, while the cost of living, except in reference to luxuries, has risen by less than half that percentage. Those statistics have been issued by the labour office in England.

Mr. MITCHELL: I think if my hon. friend looked at those figures he would find that he is speaking of wages in bulk rather than wage rates. When he says that wages in Canada are frozen, that is not so; and no one knows it better than he does.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Wage rates are frozen in Canada.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is not true.

Mr. COLDWELL: The minister will have an opportunity to make a speech showing it is not true, if he can.

Mr. MITCHELL: And I shall.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: The treatment being meted out to the men who are trickling back from overseas is not such as to engender enthusiasm among the armed forces. I find there is very little difference between the treatment being meted out to men returning from this war and that meted out to those who came back from the last war. Only yesterday I met a man back from overseas a few months who told me that he had received the same treatment men received, to my knowledge, in 1920. He was passed from one plant to another; no industry wanted him, and he finally secured a part-time job with the municipality as assistant to the ash collector. That was the best job we in Toronto

could provide for a man returning from overseas. I have another case which came to my attention over the week-end, that of a young man who returned from overseas more than twelve months ago. He receives no pension or other consideration. He is paid \$9 a week while attending a vocational class. He has had to be taken, always in a state of collapse, off every job he has tried to handle since returning from overseas. He has passed out a number of times in his classroom at the technical school; yet that man receives no consideration. It is time we had something much more promising to offer those men whom we are asking to risk their lives overseas to save democracy.

I should like to direct attention to another situation which came to my attention yesterday, through a deputation representing men who are working on the Alaska highway. If half of what they tell me is correct, the government should immediately institute a thorough investigation into the situation prevailing there. I am informed that while United States workmen are being paid \$1.25 an hour, Canadian workmen are paid whatever the contractor chooses to pay them, anywhere from 60 cents to \$1 or \$1.10; that three or four hundred of these workmen are crowded into quarters built to accommodate 100, living under conditions unfit for cattle, let alone human beings; that while Americans can buy their small necessities, cigarettes and so on, at cost, Canadians are gouged for all that the traffic will stand. I am told that these men are charged \$1.25 a day for food and a bunk. The situation is such that they are almost in open revolt over the exploitation that is taking place in that camp. Conditions such as these are doing more to impede Canada's war effort than any other single factor. This parliament and this government should take steps now to remedy this situation if we desire to secure the whole-hearted support of our people in our war effort. It just is not good enough to have these measures withheld so that they may be dangled before the eyes of the people just before election time. The people of Canada want to see definite measures introduced and put into effect now, while the war is on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I must inform the hon. gentleman that his time has expired.

Mr. LIONEL BERTRAND (Terrebonne) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, for the sixth time since the outbreak of this war, parliament has met to discuss the nation's affairs. In his review of the situation, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has stressed