

nearly everyone quoted from the newspapers at some length in order to indicate the justice of his particular remarks.

Coming to the problem itself, I would say that it is a three-way problem. It is an immediate seasonal problem; it is a long-range seasonal problem, and it is an in-season problem. Speaking to the first, the immediate seasonal problem, this calls for the immediate support of the subamendment we have before us at the present time. The long-range seasonal problem would call for the setting up of a committee along the lines proposed by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra in order to alleviate the situation at another time. The in-season problem is one that is usually of a calamitous type and therefore will give us a great deal of difficulty if our seasonal problem is not rectified immediately.

I appreciate the fact that the Minister of Labour gave us the statistics which had been compiled by the Department of Labour. I do not think we can blame the unemployment insurance commission or the national employment office for the unemployment that exists at the present time. It certainly is not of their doing. The men and women who are doing such an excellent job in his department are to be congratulated.

According to the figures quoted by the Acting Prime Minister there are over half a million unemployed. The Minister of Labour indicated that there are over 357,000 who worked less than 35 hours a week and 139,000 who have jobs but who did not work during the survey week. That gives us a total of approximately 496,000 who either had no work or worked less than 35 hours a week.

Using the figure that was quoted as the number of employables, which was 5,242,000, the ratio would appear to be 9.46 per cent of our eligible labour force which was wholly or partly unemployed. This is a most unfortunate situation. Comparatively speaking the 280,000 without jobs, who were seeking work, can be compared with the 190,000 who were mentioned a year ago as looking for employment. It is a most aggravated situation when we find an additional 50 per cent unemployed over what we had a year ago. I say that it is not seasonal when there is an increase of 50 per cent in the number of unemployed; it is definitely in-season.

As the Acting Prime Minister indicated, frictional unemployment might be a little less than 3 per cent. He was rather surprised at the figures given by the congress of labour, of from 3 to 5 per cent. I think he will agree when I say that the 3 per cent is possibly

indicative of this particular time of the year, when seasonal employment happens to be at its lowest. The 5 per cent comes about when people find it very easy to get jobs, and they are more apt to leave their own jobs. A total of 150,000 then are out of work in Canada at all times. That would mean that the difference between 150,000 and 550,000, or about 400,000, are unemployed largely because of seasonal unemployment.

On checking the figures a little more closely we find that these may be grouped into three categorical divisions. There are those who are in a slump during the winter months; there are those whose slump is about over in January or February, and there are those who are unemployed during the summer months because of the seasonal period.

In the first group, those in connection with whom the seasonal slump is in full swing during this particular time, we find building construction with a 24.3 per cent variation; highway department work with a 60.6 per cent variation; meat, 17 per cent; logging, 60.3 per cent. The next group happens to be one that should be coming out of the slump, as its lowest point of seasonal employment is either in January or early February; I refer to motor vehicles, where the figure is 4.7 per cent. Then we have wood products, 11.3 per cent; pulp and paper, 9.9; distilled and malted liquors, 8.4 per cent.

In the next group employment should be at the absolute peak today, and I refer to the agricultural implement and textile industries. However, if you were to travel across the country I think you would find that the textile workers are practically out of business at this time. They are not seasonally unemployed. Because our wheat has not been moving, because the agricultural market has been rather stagnant in the past several months, agricultural employment has not been as high. These are not seasonal workers such as those mentioned earlier.

The cause of unemployment is twofold. It is either the fault of management, the fault of the workers or it is a combination of both. In connection with management it might be bad administration and planning. Possibly there are material shortages or delays in the arrival of the necessary material. It might be a case of bad management as regards machinery maintenance which leads to breakdowns through lack of replacements, or it might be a lack of storage facilities in businesses such as the lumber trade, where they have to store lumber and have a backlog of logs. It might also be an inadequate knowledge of marketing conditions, because certain departments do not look after these things