

ceived at the hands of the minister in the senate committee that he dropped dead. He left here on Thursday night and on Friday night he was dead. He was only a young man, between thirty and forty. That is the way in which this government is treating people; driving them into their graves. I am not saying this is the only government that has done such things, but this is the worst instance I have ever known. Thousands of dollars were stolen from people in business, and not a dollar to which they were justly entitled was paid them. That is lesson number one.

The firm that I backed financially had no claims against the government at that time, because my advice to them was to do no business through the government, but to act through someone else. I remembered that for thirty years I had done nothing but fight with the customs department in Toronto, though I must add that there have been ministers who straightened things out once in a while. The Hon. Jacques Bureau was one of them; the Hon. Doctor Reid was another. Then there was the Hon. Mr. Boivin, who died suddenly in 1926. I believe the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler) was also minister for a while, and we got fair consideration. I never regretted any man's death more than I did that of Mr. Boivin, because I thought he would make a wonderful minister. I had not hoped that he would be elected, but I liked him as a man because he was fair in his dealings with the business world, just as were the others I have mentioned, as well as the Hon. Mr. Ryckman. But there have been ministers who have not been as considerate, and the time is coming when the business world will have to teach them to be fair. I am not making any threat because I am not in business now, but I am still interested in how many people the government rob. Nearly everyone capable of being robbed has already been robbed.

The hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens) has told us of the large percentage of people in business who are dying suddenly of heart trouble. It is all too true, and this government has been responsible to some extent by continually changing conditions and making it almost impossible for business men to carry on. The government appointed a national employment commission, and it will be remembered that I fought bitterly against that move because of the extreme cost which the commission would involve. I could not see what they could accomplish. We were informed that they would tabulate the unemployed by trades and so on, but what does that matter? After

[Mr. Spence.]

all, what difference does it make to what trade a man belongs so long as he is unemployed? Does it matter whether he is a carpenter, bricklayer, machinist, or anything else if he cannot get work? He is unemployed just the same. All that the commission did do was to go to the different municipalities and get a list of the unemployed. That list was in the Department of Labour at the time, so that the expenditure involved was really a waste of money.

The recommendations of the commission have not been adhered to rigidly. There is only one recommendation I wish to touch on at the moment and that is the one with respect to the training of youth. I have to give the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) some credit for that. I had the pleasure of going into a committee room one night and seeing pictures of boys training in the camps in British Columbia, and I listened to addresses from men and women from all parts of the country, telling how enthusiastically the municipalities were cooperating in the training of these young people. But the trouble is that there is no stability about it. I agree that it should be done because there is nothing else you can do, and it is better than doing nothing. It will help the boys and girls even if they get six weeks training, and it should improve them mentally, physically and morally.

I suggested at that time that instead of appointing these commissions we should restore confidence in the investing public, because I felt that this would do more to create employment than anything else. There are thousands of people in Canada with millions to invest; if we had stability in government, if investors knew that conditions would not be suddenly changed but would remain reasonably constant, investment would follow. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) now agrees with me that the proper thing to do is to restore confidence in the investing public. He brought out that point in a speech in Waterloo when he was trying to defeat the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Homuth). I am glad that the minister took up the suggestion. I am convinced that there is enough money in the pockets of the Canadian people to put the country on its feet, but the government is making cowards of us all, driving people to buy government bonds. I have not much use for the man who does nothing but buy government bonds. The man who has not enough backbone to go into industry and try to make a living in that way is not doing much for the country. I would not give much for him if he puts his money into government bonds and keeps it in hiding.