

who object because this measure would in no respect assist men who have not chosen to assist themselves, and because there is nothing in it which would enable the lazy or the sensual, or men who have neglected their opportunities, to batten on the toil of their more honest and prudent neighbours. These objections pretty well answer each other. But when parties allege that there is no need for the proposed measure, I think they make a rather serious mistake. Some persons have urged that there is no demand for a measure of this kind. Well there could by no possibility be a demand for an article which has never yet been put on the Canadian market, or, as far as I know, on the market of any other country. No one but government could offer the terms that are proposed to be offered in this Bill, and to say that there is no demand for a thing that has never been placed before the public, seems to me to be a contradiction of terms. But if there are parties here or elsewhere who hold that there is no need of this, then I say that they are very blind to certain very obvious facts disclosed in every Gazette return, and every bank statement, and every government report which deals with the question.

#### THOUSANDS UNABLE TO INVEST SAVINGS PROFITABLY

It may be unknown to some gentlemen, even in this House, but it is the fact that there are at this moment no less than five or six hundred thousand persons, being very nearly a fourth of all the wage-earners in Canada, who are unable to invest the moneys they possess at any higher rate than 3 per cent. Of these two hundred thousand are at this moment investing their moneys in government savings banks, in which they have deposited \$61,000,000 at 3 per cent. I have in