

Mr. SANDERSON: All I want is fair treatment. Surely if, from April 22 until to-day, May 3, the minister found it was not possible for him to get that information, he might have had the courtesy at least to write me a letter informing me that he could not give it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SANDERSON: The butter man, the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe, had better keep quiet. I am addressing my remarks to the Minister of Labour.

An hon. MEMBER: Address them to the chair.

Mr. SANDERSON: Through the chair, yes, but not to my hon. friend the butter man from Dufferin-Simcoe. May I ask, Mr. Chairman, in all modesty, as a private member to an hon. minister, whether the hon. gentleman will endeavour to get that information for me? Yes, or no?

Mr. GORDON: I can add nothing to what I have already said. I know that the hon. member has an almost overpoweringly inquiring mind, and for that I commend him.

Mr. SANDERSON: And a little more courtesy than the minister has.

Mr. GORDON: The hon. gentleman arrogates to himself a superabundance of courtesy. I gave instructions that the work of the department should be analyzed in order that the request of the hon. gentleman might be complied with. I believe the officers have been at work endeavouring to satisfy that request, and if it is possible to give the information with any degree of accuracy it will be given. I can say nothing further with reference to the matter.

Mr. ARTHURS: The resolution before the chair reads in part:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to authorize the governor in council to enter into agreements . . . to assist in defraying the cost of the sale and distribution of products of field, farm, sea, river and mine.

I suggest that the word "forest" should be included. I do not think there is any industry in Canada to-day that has been and is suffering more than the lumbering industry, and according to this resolution as it stands at present there is no relief in sight. I sincerely hope that when the bill comes before the house the word "forest" will be included. The lumbering industry has suffered for a number of years. It is in a peculiar situation; its product ordinarily does not go on the market

until at least twenty-four months after operations have commenced. Many of the limits have been bought at very high prices, the ground rents are high, and those engaged in the industry from the Atlantic to the Pacific are in a very unenviable position. In this regard I would direct the attention of the government to the building trade of Canada, which is one of the greatest industries in this country. It distributes more money among the various trades and labour organizations than any other trade in Canada. In 1929 the building operations in the cities of Canada were valued at \$234,944,549. This outlay was divided among the lumbermen from the forest to the planing mill, the stone quarries, the brick manufacturers, the cement manufacturers, the hardware manufacturers, the plumbers, the painters, the builders, the decorators and so on right through the whole field. In practically all these cases ninety per cent of the outlay is for labour. Ninety per cent of the cost of lumbering is labour, ninety per cent of the cost of producing brick is labour, and the same holds true through the various building industries.

For various reasons, this industry has fallen off tremendously. I hold in my hand a quotation from an American paper of recent date which states that the industry has dropped 60 per cent as compared with the same month of last year, and 85 per cent as compared with the same month in 1929.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Are those Canadian or American figures?

Mr. ARTHURS: Those are the American figures. I can give my hon. friend the Canadian figures as well. In 1929, the peak year, the building permits in cities alone totalled \$234,944,549; in 1930 they had dropped to \$166,379,325, and last year they dropped to \$112,222,845, a decrease of over 50 per cent as compared with 1929. The figures for January of this year show permits as reported by 61 cities totalling \$2,761,929 as compared with \$8,401,456 for 1931.

Mr. MITCHELL: What were they for the year before?

Mr. ARTHURS: I have not the figures for the year before. The permits for February for this year were valued at \$2,578,597 as compared with \$6,395,659 for last year. Those for March were valued at \$3,323,602, as against \$9,948,979. The total for the three months of this year is \$8,664,190 as compared with \$24,746,094 for last year.

There are many reasons for this decrease in building operation, but there is one particular