Unemployment—Mr. Church

the conditions of the industrial workers in the three ridings east of the Don river in Toronto. There is a proposal to appoint the president of an industry in my constituency as chairman of this commission, and about that matter I may have a word to say a little later on. In passing I may observe that he is a gentleman of ability, and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to his talents.

I wish particularly, however, to say a few words for the great mass of intelligent electors in Canada. I am speaking for those independent people in this country who are not interested in a solution of this problem along political lines. The great mass of electors who send members to this parliament wish us to reassert the supremacy of national over party interests in Canada, and they should compel us, their elected representatives, to discharge our duties as private members. They should make us function and do our duty in order to help rebuild the structure of our social and economic order.

The country is heartily sick of politics as it is played here. We want a new set of rules for the game. Nothing illustrates that point better than does Bill No. 19. Last night the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) asked the government if they were compelled to accept the recommendations of the commission and he received the reply that the government was not committed to that advice. May I point out that there is a rule of anticipation in the House of Commons. I would not have spoken on third reading had it not been for the action of the government on April 6 when, in the presence of about forty per cent of the members, a committee was set up to handle the railway problem, the greatest problem in Canada and one involving a deficit of about \$60,000,000. Without notice in votes and proceedings the government shunted consideration of this important matter to another body; it passed the buck to the committee on railways and shipping. If I were to speak at length about this matter I would be ruled out of order, and further reference in the house will be deferred until the presentation of the committee's report.

What will happen if on May 1 there are demonstrations in the larger cities? And there are bound to be demonstrations. Those men will not read Thomas Carlyle; they will not quote Shakespeare as is done by hon. members opposite. They are going to ask this question: What have you been doing about unemployment? I hope the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Massey) will hear what I am saying, because he is interested in that part of the city where industrial

[Mr. Church.]

workers are not getting proper treatment. For the balance of the session, if this bill No. 19 passes, whenever we propose anything constructive to relieve unemployment we will be ruled out of order under the anticipation rule. The preamble of this bill says that it is to foster agricultural settlement, and conserve and develop the natural resources, but in the whole bill from cover to cover, there is not one line about these great problems, and when this bill goes to the house of philology, as I call it, we shall see an awakening. This parliament is to blame.

I was very much interested in some of the remarks that were made by my hon. friend from Rosthern (Mr. Tucker) and my hon. friend from Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer) in connection with the plight of our municipalities. The municipalities are asking that something be done along these direct grant lines, and they have been looking to parliament for a long time in vain for direct aid for relief works. I agree with what those two hon. gentlemen said in that respect, and on this government, as long as it is the government of the day, lies the responsibility of solving these problems in a practical way. We on this side of the house have made suggestions, but the government will not listen to them. They have millions and millions of dollars to give to the railways and to the provinces for unemployment relief, and the province deducts often ten or fifteen per cent for overhead and other expenses instead of giving the whole grant directly to the municipalities. So, Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear those two hon. gentlemen support me in my contention. I believe that instead of Bill No. 19 we should have an up to date, long term policy for providing full time employment, and if the Liberal partyand they are the government of the daycannot find a solution, what will happen in ten years will be that the socialists will come into power in this country. That is what is going to take place. Sir Oswald Mosley calls the present state of affairs "a slow crumbling into ruin." But England did not wait for "a slow crumbling into ruin" to develop. The government acted promptly. It tackled this problem in the House of Commons. As far back as 1909 the British government introduced unemployment and sickness insurance, and established a system of pensions and of labour exchanges. A census of labour was made. We have never had a census of labour, and it is all guesswork how many unemployed we have in this country, and how many of those on relief are employable or not. England did not wait for this so-called slow crumbling into ruin. The British people