

Labelle, in which they pointed out that there had been very little census taking of the unemployed in northern Ontario. The hon. member for Labelle also stressed the fact that there would be a lot of unemployment during the coming winter on account of slackness in lumbering operations.

I wish to refer to one of the planks of the platform of the Conservative party during the last election. It was stated that the policy of the Conservative party would provide jobs. Paragraph 6 of the Conservative party platform read as follows:

A policy that will prohibit the free export of pulpwood instead of allowing it to be shipped out to keep American paper mills operating, while Canadian mills are working part time.

At Conservative party meetings in northern Ontario some of the Conservative candidates, and I would mention particularly the Minister of Lands and Forests in the Ontario government, said that if the Conservative party was returned to power it would immediately stop the exportation of pulpwood to the United States. This is a matter of very great concern to the settlers on the timber lands in northern Ontario and elsewhere. They are in the same position with regard to pulpwood as the wheat grower of the west is in with regard to his product, and as the manufacturer of automobiles is in with regard to his product. So far as the settler is concerned, pulpwood is his finished product, and the only logical market, indeed, the only market that he has in our section of the country and in northern Quebec, is the American market. I have in my constituency three great newspaper and sulphite mills, located at Kapuskasing, Iroquois Falls and Smooth Rock Falls. It may surprise some hon. members to know that even these big industries in my constituency can take only a portion of the pulpwood that the settlers produce. So I would plead with the leader of the Conservative party to withdraw that plank from the party platform if he wishes to relieve unemployment in that part of the country. I make that statement in good faith. I do not wish to revive the battle that took place a few weeks ago. But I would again urge upon the Prime Minister that he withdraw pledge No. 6 of his platform. I well remember that at the last session of the last parliament I had a battle over this very same question with a member of the Liberal party, who brought in a motion to prohibit the exportation of pulpwood to the United States. There is only a limited market locally for that pulpwood. I am firmly convinced that during most of last summer our American friends bought their supplies of pulpwood very largely from Russia.

If my information is correct, American vessels have brought in 500,000 cords of pulpwood from Russia, and I think some of that importation can be blamed to that plank in the very platform. I hope, therefore, that the Prime Minister, speaking in the name of the Conservative party, will, for the sake of northern Ontario, northern Quebec and the timber sections of the western provinces and British Columbia, withdraw that pledge from the Conservative party platform.

I said at the outset that I am absolutely in favour of any measure that will relieve unemployment. The problem is not as acute in northern Ontario as in other sections, but I would again stress the fact that lumbering operations this winter will be more sluggish than they have been for some time. Our mining operations are being carried on pretty fully, but work on the railways is not as good as it has been in the past and construction activities are almost at a standstill.

I notice in the resolution under discussion the word "highways." Highways in northern Ontario mean something different from the highways in the southern section of the province, for the very simple reason that in northern Ontario we have no highway commission, but moneys for that purpose are spent under the jurisdiction of the northern development branch.

Moneys were voted by this parliament in 1919 to meet a very similar unemployment situation to that now existing, and it may be a revelation to quite a few members of the house when I say that not a single dollar of that money was spent in any section of northern Ontario. I am not saying that in a spirit of criticism. During the last election the Conservative party committed itself to the construction of a trans-Canada highway, which involves the construction of some six or seven hundred miles of road through the wilderness. Now if that money is not earmarked to some extent, to ensure a certain portion of it being spent in northern Ontario for the construction of a trans-Canada highway, the same thing will happen that happened in 1919 and we shall not have a single dollar spent on highway construction in northern Ontario. In northern Ontario we are not unanimous in our choice as to the best possible route for a trans-Canada highway. The people of Sault Ste. Marie, Fort William and Port Arthur maintain, with some logic, that trans-Canada highway should pass through that section. Others of us in the northern section of the province maintain, with more logic, that it should follow the transcontinental from the Quebec border straight to Winnipeg. The