

the minister to keep it rather than the municipal authorities and private social agencies in Vancouver. I suggest to the minister that the condition is a chronic one and that it does not prevail only in Vancouver, but I have heard it said that there is a similar migration into Windsor. The services for these people who are unemployed through no fault of their own have to be provided by some agency, dominion, provincial or municipal. When such a large percentage of the unemployed come, as shown by this survey, from outside the municipality it does not seem to me to be fair that the municipality or private agencies should bear the cost. The difficulty may not be easy to solve, but it should be studied by the unemployment insurance commission with a view to the dominion assuming its responsibility.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: The Prince Rupert labour council several months ago inquired as to the possibility of placing an officer in the northern area of British Columbia to settle the cases up there, because they have to wait so long to be cleared through Vancouver. Has the department come to any conclusion on that point?

Mr. MITCHELL: As far as my memory serves me, we did send a man out there; it is an administrative question, as my hon. friend knows, but I shall be glad to look into it. We have endeavoured to decentralize the adjudication of claims both in the western provinces, Ontario and Quebec, and the maritimes so as to speed up payments.

Mrs. STRUM: I think we should at this time try to impress upon the minister the necessity of helping the worker to insure himself against illness as well as against unemployment. I believe the government was wise in bringing in unemployment insurance at a time of high employment and when wages were good, although, of course, its action was long overdue.

I have in my hand a document brought out in 1919. It is called the National Liberal Convention, held thirty years ago, and here is one of the things it proposes:

And further resolved:

Effective legislation for the conservation of human life and health.

Dear knows how many people will have died in the meantime before we get around to doing that.

And further resolved:

That in so far as may be practicable, having regard for Canada's financial position, an adequate system of insurance against unemployment, sickness . . .

And so on. I wish to draw to the minister's attention that even thirty years ago the Liberal party put beside unemployment insurance, insurance against illness. When we talk of how much it would cost, what the actuarial basis would have to be, and how much more the worker would have to pay to insure himself against illness, I suggest to the minister that the worker is paying for illness now and that it costs a great deal more for him to do it on an individual basis than through a group. Illness may cripple you for years, and what is even worse you may go without treatment; you may shorten life itself and leave a dependent family because you could not face the cost of treatment in time. So I urge the minister to think of the family whose breadwinner is ill or whose breadwinner is dead because he did not get medical care soon enough. I urge upon the minister and the cabinet to take into consideration the merging of unemployment insurance into a larger plan of social security.

The minister gave an impressive figure a few moments ago; I think he said three million people were now covered by unemployment insurance, and I am very happy to hear that. But there are many categories who cannot be insured against unemployment. There are also many people who are self-employed. They have the hazard of unemployment and the greater hazard of illness, too common uncovered.

Some mention has been made of New Zealand. I had the benefit of spending almost four months in that country a few years ago, and I found that there they had merged their unemployment insurance into a social security plan. True, the people pay for it; but you never get anything without paying for it; you pay less for insurance within a group than you pay as a private individual, and when you have covered illness too you have covered almost every emergency. I would remind the minister that we are very much more able to do this than New Zealand because we have so very much more in the way of natural wealth.

I was surprised to find that in New Zealand they have no oil, no metals, little timber and hardly any coal. They have an extremely limited economy. They have an agricultural economy and are just beginning to develop secondary industries, and so they have tied their social security to citizenship, not to small industrial groupings as we have done with unemployment insurance. In Canada we have so many people excluded by category and so many people living on farms that we should tie our social security to citizenship rather than to industrial groupings, as Great Britain tried to do at the outset. So I plead with the