

a mere statistical view of our present economic situation. After all, statistics do not always reveal the actual situation.

Great Britain was the first nation to take a long term realistic view of her internal affairs and so saved that country from internal disorders if not from actual revolution itself. Recognizing that insecurity is inherent in the modern industrial business structure, Great Britain provided economic security for her people through an elaborate social system. As a result Great Britain spent for social insurance, including payments to the unemployed, the sick, the injured, the aged and the widows and children, a total of \$1,369,000,000 in 1933. By this means Great Britain has preserved and is preserving the British democratic form of government, thereby giving renewed faith and inspiration to the British people in their own system of democratic government, something which I fear we might be in some danger of losing in Canada to-day.

Unfortunately the blind greed and stupidity of our business leaders and some of their political allies fail to recognize the growing storm of discontent gradually creeping over Canada to-day.

Relief, it is true, is being provided on a scale hitherto unknown in this country, but in the giving of relief even under the most favourable conditions and even though essentials of life are provided it should not be forgotten that relief violates man's most valued possession—his self-esteem.

The question of social security to my mind does not and should rest not entirely on economic grounds but on humanitarian grounds as well. What great value should be attached to any economic system if it cannot adequately meet the needs of all her people.

The system adopted by that great and wise nation Great Britain, one of progressive taxation and an adequate system of social security, is one of real merit and one well worth while considering and adopting. Our system, although somewhat progressive, has brought about no re-apportionment of our wealth; in fact, it has put and is to-day putting more wealth in the hands of the wealthy and making the poor even poorer.

The insecurity of our people to-day in the face of the hazards of modern life, with unemployment the chief hazard, menaces more than mere national prosperity. It endangers the very existence of our social order.

In closing, I would express my belief that if a plan such as I have outlined were put into effect, not only would it provide for greater employment of our young people, by removing persons of sixty and sixty-five from the labour market, but it would help to give

[Mr. Reid.]

a greater sense of security to our people and remove from our midst many of the disquieting fears which now confront us.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I shall not take very much of the time of the house on this question. I rise merely to put myself in the position of supporting the resolution. The whole matter has been very thoroughly discussed here this afternoon by various speakers. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), who moved the resolution, and the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol), who seconded it, dealt with it in detail. Others have also discussed the whole subject very fully. The hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Reid) covered a little wider ground, by taking in old age pensions and social security in general; but whatever he does, the hon. gentleman has two qualifications which I rather like; one is industry and the other is the burr in his voice. One does not need to hear the skirl of the bagpipes when the hon. gentleman is speaking, because one knows at once whence he came and the kind of food on which he was brought up—porridge, mostly, I mean.

As the resolution is brief and covers the ground very fully, and since a good many other matters have been touched upon by various speakers in the course of the debate, I will take the liberty of reading it:

That in the opinion of this house, a national system of contributory unemployment insurance for Canada is a pressing need at the present time and should receive immediate attention.

I think it deserves the support of us all; and to show that our party is in good faith in supporting it I can adduce two very good proofs. One is the act which we put in force when this party was in power, in 1935, although the act was later pronounced *ultra vires*; the other is the resolution of the National Conservative convention held last July; it is brief, so I will read it:

To encourage and support throughout Canada a plan of national unemployment and retirement insurance.

That is a plank of our party's platform. The legislation we put into effect, and which was assented to on June 28, 1935, was, to quote the title:

An act to establish an employment and social insurance commission, to provide for a national employment service, for insurance against unemployment, for aid to unemployed persons, and for other forms of social insurance and security, and for purposes related thereto.

It is chapter 38 of the statutes of Canada, 1935, 25-26 George V. That legislation covered other ground than unemployment insurance.