

Unemployment

equip the purchasing companies for competition with the rest of the world.

Anyone who is associated with industry knows that a great number of businesses in Canada, many of them old family concerns, have grown up from very small beginnings, having originated in small centres. I do not imply that they should not have originated in small centres; in fact I am one of those who believe the time has come when there should be a certain amount of decentralization, of spreading industries around more, as was the case long ago, in a number of smaller centres. That would be better for thousands of employees because it would give them an opportunity to cultivate small gardens, which would be of advantage to them during lay-offs, and all companies are subject to lay-offs, particularly in this country where climatic conditions affect industry to a greater extent than they do in the United States, for instance, where there is a wide diversity in climatic conditions, from our own boundary to Alabama. Decentralization would provide our workmen with something which they cannot now enjoy in large cities, namely, gardens and some ground on which to produce some of their own requirements. I have often wondered whether the time has not come for a survey of industry in Canada to see whether there are not many industries operating in positions in which they should not be located. If this section could be used for the re-allocation of industrial sites, I believe something could be done to assist Canadian industry in that regard. I am more or less groping round to find some means of assisting the minister because I know he is sincere and I believe every member of the house, man or woman, is genuinely desirous of helping Canadians to recover from this depression. It is away beyond politics. Anyone who tries to drag politics into it is not thinking along the right line. Perhaps the suggestions I have been offering are based on an erroneous interpretation of this section, but I think a reading of the section would bear them out.

I do not wish to make special reference to the tariff, but in the last five years particularly a great number of new lines have been introduced in the country, and that is an angle which the minister might explore—the introduction of new lines in Canadian industry. On more than one occasion I have suggested to industrialists that they manufacture this or that article which is now made in the United States and for which there is a considerable market in Canada, and it has been suggested to me that perhaps the government might feel, owing to the depression, that it would be good for employment—I do not say that

[Mr. MacNicol.]

the government can find the money to do this—if it could see its way to assist industry in the manufacture of new lines. At the moment the industrialist has to bring in the blue-prints or the patterns. If he brings in the blue-prints he has to make the patterns here which involves a large initial investment. There is on Van Horne street in my riding a plant now making eight or ten new lines, and the equipment necessary to make these new lines, consisting of patterns and so forth, represents a substantial investment or draw upon the capital of that company. I believe this is another angle that should be surveyed if industry is going to obtain any benefit from this section. As I understand it, the purpose of the section is to provide employment and if industry can provide more employment, the purpose of this section will be achieved.

I was interested in what the minister said about supplying work on the railroads, but I have not been able just to grasp what he has in mind. I am under the impression that there are many thousands of railroad employees now out of work. Why should not they be placed back to work on the railroads and the other men to whom the minister has referred placed somewhere else? In this regard I would refer to the remarks of the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader). I do not know enough about farming to speak as an expert, but I was impressed with what the hon. member said. If his argument is sound I should like representatives from other agricultural constituencies to support him or to comment upon his remarks. He contended that the government should take these men from the camps and place them on farms, paying the farmers \$10 per month—if I am not correct I should like to be corrected—for the keep of the men, and paying the men \$10 per month as partial wages. If the hon. member's argument is sound, I can see where it would be good business to follow his suggestion. If you go around the province of Ontario you will see many barns requiring repairs; you will see the necessity for many ditches; you will see many fences in need of rebuilding and many fields in need of clearing. If these farms could be placed in better condition this would add to the national wealth of the country. In any event the money spent would not be lost. Additional employment would be provided in the secondary industries in the towns and cities which would supply the added requirements of the farmers.

I was tremendously impressed with the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer) in connection with subsection 2. If this subsection is to terminate