

*The Address—Mr. Noseworthy*

find jobs today? Surely there is something wrong with the government or its policy. According to the report unemployment exists in Belleville, London—where 350 workers of one plant are on a four-day week—Ingersoll, Kitchener, Orillia, Collingwood, among other centres mentioned in the report. I think the cut-back in building materials is one of the most serious matters. We need tens of thousands of houses. People are living in garages, basements, attics, trailers, wherever they can get a roof over their heads. Yet the firms producing materials that go into the building of houses are laying off men and reducing production. There is a cut-back in the production of builders' hardware, plumbing and heating supplies, furnaces and radiators, house paints, venetian blinds and other products mentioned in the national employment service report. Unemployment has extended into textiles. We have lay-offs, short weeks and cut-backs in production in plants turning out carpets, blankets, hosiery, men's shirts, men's hats, work clothes, gloves and the like. Those are not luxuries; they are necessities. On Saturday I visited a retail dealer whose store is filled with workingmen's clothes, shoes, gloves; all kinds of things workingmen buy. He told me business has not been as poor since the thirties; yet we are just a few weeks from Christmas. There has been no improvement in his business because of the approaching Christmas season.

What is the reason for this? Who is to blame? Surely a wide-awake government could have found some means of avoiding a situation such as that. The same condition applies in connection with woollen goods. We are told in the report that Dominion Woollen & Worsteds are discontinuing their branch plant operations at Orillia and Collingwood, resulting in the lay-off of 110 employees in Orillia alone.

I could go on down the list, but for a few moments I should like to refer to the situation in Toronto. According to this report there are today in Toronto seventy-two factories working part time. Here are men engaged in the production of essential goods, goods which help to maintain the standard of living of the Canadian people. Most of those people, I am told, have not registered for unemployment insurance; yet the week before last 2,200 people registered in the Toronto office as unemployed. There were over 10,000 live claims in the Toronto office at the end of October; and at the rate the unemployed are registering in the Ontario office, before winter there will be 20,000 unemployed in that city. That is 6 per cent of the labour force; and the unemployment insurance people say that anything over 3 per cent is serious. Already

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over 4 per cent of the total labour force in Toronto are registered as unemployed. Last Monday morning there were over 400 unemployed lined up before 8 o'clock at 174 Spadina avenue. That is a situation which, as I said before, is worse today than it was in the middle of the winter in 1950. Yet these are not the months of the year when normally we have large numbers of unemployed.

Here are some more statistics which apply to Ontario generally and, I suggest, show the situation. Last week 2,117 skilled workers were registered, with only 499 vacancies. That is between four and five skilled workers for every vacancy. There were 1,708 labourers for 300 jobs, or more than five labourers registered for every job available. There were 4,245 more women looking for jobs than a year ago, and there were 1,500 fewer jobs than there were at that time. There were six women registered for every office job available. There were four women registered for every sales clerk job available. There were ten women registered for every factory job available. According to this same report last week in Hamilton alone 2,400 women were drawing unemployment insurance, the largest figure in the history of that office.

Those are facts which should be placed on the record, and I think it is high time the government gave some consideration to overhauling its policy for combating inflation. Had it set out deliberately to budget for a depression it could not have done a better job than it is doing. As a direct result of the government's policy of taxation, restrictions on credit and other fiscal measures, we have a situation developing in which they may cure inflation and they may bring about a drop in prices, but what a price the people of Canada will pay for that cure. Who can say that a cure achieved in that way will be much better than the disease the government seeks to cure?

**An hon. Member:** When do the polls open tomorrow?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that his time has expired. He may continue only with the consent of the house.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Noseworthy:** I intend to finish with this statement, that such a policy can lead only to unemployment and a disruption of business. It can lead only to a considerable lowering of the standard of living of the Canadian people. That may well be the government's policy; that may be the government's aim.

**Mr. Sinnott:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Noseworthy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.