

notes, when there was no security behind them except the security of Canada. I do not suggest that the way to cure unemployment is to start a dollar factory or mill in Ottawa, turning out all the dollars we can spend. I know some ignorant critic might understand me to mean that, but surely we have no such critics in this house. I would suggest that the same thing might be done in this instance as was done in the case I have cited, which would in the immediate present create an increased purchasing power. Then subsequently it could be taxed back through the consolidated revenue fund, providing for a retirement of part each year, extending the cancellation over a number of years. Will the Prime Minister give consideration to that suggestion?

Mr. BENNETT: The suggestion which my hon. friend has made is one of which I was not enamoured when first it was proposed and which at this moment I do not think is sound. Unless the paper money of this country has behind it an adequate reserve of the only commodity that passes in the settlement of international exchanges, namely, gold, I would suggest that it is of very little value; and to the extent to which the reserve may be depleted or the ratio decreased by the issue of legal tender or of Dominion of Canada bills, to that extent is there a possibility of the money of the country becoming debased and not of par value in the countries of the world. I shall give due consideration to my hon. friend's suggestion, knowing as I do that it is one of his favourite subjects and that he is not alone in proposing it—that by the use of the printing press many of the ills of the country might be overcome. I recall in my youthful days a friend of mine observing: "A shortage of money? Nonsense. Why don't we print more bills?" Perhaps that is what my hon. friend has in mind, but that would hardly serve as a palliative in the present situation.

Mr. IRVINE: I thought I had adequately provided against the possibility of the reply which the Prime Minister has made. I do not for one moment suggest that the cure for any economic ill could possibly lie in an unlimited issuing of paper money. The Prime Minister has not refused to consider the suggestion but the manner in which he has promised to consider it leaves the impression that all the consideration which the matter will get has already been given.

I am going to take up a few minutes discussing the matter, because I do not believe

[Mr. Irvine.]

I can spend my share of the cost of the session any better than in pointing out what my view is on a subject of this kind. I congratulate the Prime Minister and the government on their attitude to the unemployment situation. I think the Prime Minister has done Canada, and perhaps other nations of the world, a real service in declaring this question to be a national one and one for this government to take into consideration. To that extent I am in accord with him. I am also in agreement with anything the government may attempt to do to alleviate the human suffering which is entailed in all such periods of depression as the one through which we are passing at the present moment. But when the Prime Minister says that for the time being he is not inquiring into causes, I think perhaps it would be better if we did; for in proposing any form of relief or suggesting palliatives, I am satisfied that, if our efforts are to succeed, we must of necessity have some real understanding of what is responsible for the trouble.

Now let me take a few moments to state what our industrial problem appears to be. Unemployment, of course, is the most vicious symptom of our industrial discord, but unemployment is only the industrial manifestation of the same economic difficulties from which business, agriculture and other classes of the people in the community are suffering constantly. This question of unemployment is inevitable as things are to-day, and I may say that in my opinion the reason why a solution for this problem has not yet been found in any country of the world is because we are approaching it with a firm determination that there shall be no alteration in the system which produces it, and that we shall continue to carry on with the same system which has given us unemployment. There can be no hope in carrying on in that way. In one sense unemployment represents the real fruits of human progress and advancement; that is to say, it means that machinery has been substituted for man power, but as soon as man power becomes unnecessary for the work the man power has to starve because it is not permitted to use the commodities which are produced by machinery instead of by its own labour. If a solution of this problem is not found I can conceive of only about three possible results: Either there will be internal revolution in all the countries of the world concerned, there will be recurring wars at shorter and shorter intervals, or else there must be