

taken account of those who in the United States have been employed under such schemes as the reforestation program which the administration has put into force, nor in unemployment relief work, but has been confined to employment in factories and industry. Those are the figures that we should have in regard to this country; only such figures can have any meaning at all in a comparison between the two countries.

I take exception to this sort of statistical prosperity behind which the government is seeking to shelter itself, but which is wholly illusory and will only make for more in the way of trouble and distress as the years go by. To show the effect of statistics put out in this form, I might quote from two statements which I have in my hand. I take them because they were the first that happened to come to my attention. I have a copy of what appeared in the *Montreal Star*, and also a copy of a statement that appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen*,—reports with reference to a recent bulletin. The *Montreal Star* of January 17, 1934, has the following heading:

Employment gain proof of upswing; 146,900 returned to work between April-November last year.

It goes on to cite figures as evidence of an upward trend. But what is the truth? It is the direct opposite of what appears in these headlines. The employment gain here indicated is not, as a matter of fact, proof of any upswing; rather, it is proof of the very opposite, when you study the figures carefully. It is proof of there being more unemployed in private industry and a larger number receiving unemployment relief through government funds—the very opposite of the impression conveyed by the press to the public. We are told that 146,900 men have returned to work. Anyone reading that statement would conclude that these men had gone back to some gainful employment in private firms which were extending employment. The fact is that these men have not returned to such work at all; they have simply been given unemployment relief until they can get genuine work. And the government now uses the material as indicating an increase in permanent prosperity.

The *Ottawa Citizen* carried this headline:

Added 146,900 names to wage earners in 1933. Distinct upward trend from April 1 shown in figures given in Dominion Bureau's review.

But these are not wage earners in the sense in which that term is understood either by workmen in the country or by employers; they are in large part relief workers, so that to that extent the figures are wholly illusory, as I

have said. Rather than a distinct upward trend in employment in the true sense of the word, there is, as I have indicated, a trend the very opposite.

Now these are government official records of employment, but when one seeks to obtain from the Department of Labour or from any other department figures with reference to the number of unemployed, one is unable to get them. These particular figures are available and are sent out in this form, but the figures which are really required to give the true situation have either not been collected or, if they have been collected, they have not been given to the public or to this House of Commons.

When the present government came into office, according to a statement of the Prime Minister in September, 1930, there were 117,000 unemployed in Canada. That was the highest figure at which the Prime Minister felt he could dare to put the number of unemployed. I imagine it was considerably below that at that particular time, but 117,000 was the figure we were given to show the terrible situation he had taken over as a legacy from the previous administration. What was the official estimate of the census bureau as of June 1, 1931? No longer 117,000 but 392,809. Since that time other estimates have been given. An estimate at the present time which I think is well within the mark would place the unemployed at 500,000. The Minister of Labour last session gave figures as to the total number of persons receiving relief, and the number of families on relief. These figures indicated that in January, 1933, the total number of men, women and children receiving relief was 1,357,562—heads of families receiving relief, 252,000. The Prime Minister has recently been speaking in Winnipeg. He said there that at the end of April, 1933, the numbers receiving relief amounted to 1,522,000, but at the end of September, 1933, the number would be 1,000,000 or less. He gave additional figures out on the Pacific coast; they were to the effect that the present government had spent, since taking office, as much as \$131,462,000 on relief during the depression.

Mr. BENNETT: Including new loans to provinces.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: New loans to provinces, yes. I venture to make the statement that these figures and others that I might give from indices of employment and the like, may be used as a basis for calculation and they will show that at the present