

*Unemployment Insurance*

that we set up these commissions to give people an opportunity to appear and ask for more protection, but we do nothing along the same lines to afford protection to the human element in industry. I am trying to point out the different way in which we have treated these two factors in industry—the human and the capitalistic. We are prepared to give all kinds of protection to the one, but none to the other.

Mr. McMILLAN: Does the hon. gentleman think this tariff board—

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Order! Stand up if you want to ask a question.

Mr. McMILLAN: Excuse me. Does the hon. gentleman mean to convey the idea that the tariff board was set up in the interests of capital rather than of labour?

Mr. HEAPS: Mr. Speaker, I am confident that my hon. friend knows a little better than he would have us think he does. All tariff protection in this country is for the benefit of capital, and nothing else.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Mr. HEAPS: Yes. When applicants appear before the tariff board for more protection for industry they are applying for more protection for capital. A large delegation representative of 2,000 employees in a certain industry in Ontario came to my office to interview me yesterday. This industry I speak of is well protected.

An hon. MEMBER: Where is it?

Mr. HEAPS: Never mind where it is. It is a fairly large industry in Ontario.

An hon. MEMBER: Where?

Mr. HEAPS: I do not mind saying it is in the constituency of Algoma, and, as I say, it employs about 2,000 men.

Mr. SIMPSON: What industry is that?

Mr. HEAPS: The Algoma Steel Corporation. The men in that industry were working on two shifts of eleven and thirteen hours respectively, and their wages run from 35 to 52½ cents per hour. How much protection did those workers enjoy? We are pleading for the government to take some action to improve the conditions under which these people have to work. And the same conditions have existed in the province of Nova Scotia. As a matter of fact it will be found, no matter where you go in Canada, that so far as the labour end of industry is concerned there has been no protection whatever.

[Mr. Heaps.]

Mr. SIMPSON: Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the men connected with the Algoma Steel Corporation were not in favour of protection for the steel industry?

Mr. HEAPS: I did not say that, but I may reply to the hon. gentleman by illustration. When the slaves of the southern United States were about to be freed they themselves fought on the side of their masters, and you may find these men in Algoma believing protection to be of some advantage to them, although so far it has done them no good.

As I said at the outset, I do not intend to discuss this resolution at great length. I have brought the matter up in the hope or having it referred to one of the standing committees. During the past two years we have established a committee on industrial relations which is fairly competent to handle such a question. It is high time that we placed on the statute books of this country social legislation of the character that has been in effect in other parts of the empire for the past fifteen or twenty years, and I hope that on this occasion the government will in no way oppose the reference of this question to the standing committee on industrial relations, who have every facility for making a complete study of the situation and whose report might lead to useful action and satisfactory results.

Mr. C. R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): As chairman of the committee on industrial and international relations, I have listened with interest to what the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) has had to say on this subject. The ideas which he has submitted to the House this afternoon were discussed by members of this House before that committee last year, and while as a Liberal I am not opposed to any resolution of this nature, while I am prepared to admit that the Liberal party is considerably interested in resolutions on which legislation making for social justice can be based, I must say that the argument of my hon. friend in regard to the tariff board does not appeal to me. The hon. gentleman touched on the relations of industry and humanity, and I fail to see how the one can be separated from the other. The welfare of industry and that of humanity are wrapped up in each other, at least to a large degree. The tariff board was set up by this government as a means of securing all the facts so as to determine fairly and equitably whether the tariff in any instance should be raised, lowered or eliminated. It is just possible that in some industries protection might be altogether removed, and if so, it is the duty of the tariff board to obtain all the evidence available and