

our attention and interest to-day to a greater degree than this problem which we seek to deal with under this vote.

Mr. MacNICOL: Has the minister considered and, if so, is he sympathetic with the United States scheme known as the C.C.C. camps—the civilian conservation corps? I have visited a number of these camps and I think it is a splendid way of putting young men to work. They learn a good deal and perform much useful service. The proof is the fact that the United States itself has adopted the principle of C.C.C. camps as a permanent institution.

Mr. ROGERS: I believe that the C.C.C. camps in the United States have operated with considerable success. I may remind my hon. friend that those who are in the civilian conservation corps are enrolled and are subject to discipline while in those camps. That is an important consideration in the general scheme of the C.C.C. camps. I doubt whether under this vote we shall be able to make substantial progress in the country generally in setting up such camps, but there are some provinces that have already expressed their interest in work connected with the forests, and there we may very well be able to carry out the idea my hon. friend has in mind.

Mr. CHURCH: I have seen some of the camps the minister speaks of, and I know that Miss Perkins, the Secretary of Labour in the United States government, has issued reports in connection with them. In my opinion it would be a flat failure owing to different conditions if attempted in Canada. Our experience should have taught us what to do for the youth of the country. I have no faith in any of these camps or committees or commissions proposed by the minister under this million dollar vote, and if we are not careful we shall get no value at all for the money we are going to spend. Let me read three or four short sentences to the minister. This is a book on the new conservatism, entitled *Conservatism and the Future*, by Lord Eustace Percy, M.P. and others. It will show the futility of these camps as a palliative, and that the scheme is all wrong if begun in Canada both from an educational and industrial standpoint. Lord Eustace Percy, President of the Board of Education, says:

In our educational example, one of the chief weaknesses of the body politic is the dislike manifested by many of the most enlightened industrialists, who are really keen on education, for any organized system of part-time education and part-time employment. The problems of internal factory organization which such a system must create are many and serious; yet unless they can be solved, unless the inhibition

can be removed, no thorough educational reform is possible. There is one obvious way of removing the inhibition: the five day working week, during which the employed juvenile would receive his specific craft training in the factory, with a universal system of Saturday morning continuation classes. This idea needs careful testing before it is put into practice, but in many, if not in most, industries Saturday closing might well be found to have positive advantages in reducing "terminal" costs, and again educational reform would be merged in a larger reform of occupational life, a reform which would be organic because it would be economic.

He also says, concerning a forward policy for the aid of youth in the depression:

This policy involves, first of all, not a merely educational, but an industrial reform: the imposition on organized industries of a statutory duty to formulate their schemes of recruitment and training, or in other words, a revival in a new form of the idea of apprenticeship as the path to a definite professional status. It involves, in the second place, an extension of compulsory full-time school attendance, not to some fixed and unalterable point dictated by the requirements of school classes, but to points corresponding with the various approved recruitment schemes of industries. It means, thirdly, a new cooperation between the state and industry in the establishment of a system of part-time education . . .

—along the lines suggested.

This can be done only by cooperation between industry and the boards of education in the country. Take all these high school students going around the country riding the rods; are they to be referred to Mr. Purvis's commission and youth committee, the most useless lot of committees and commissions I ever saw? But they represent a lot of money, not only in the main estimates but in this estimate. I served on the Toronto board of education, and from my experience I believe the minister's plan is all wrong. He referred to camps in the United States; I can tell him that Miss Perkins has just put into effect during the past year a scheme by which a certain number of these students are selected by the educational authorities for further training, and instead of having to quit high school, as they do by thousands in this country, because of inability of the parents on relief to keep them there, she has adopted a system of keeping these children in the high schools. They get about two dollars a week and attend the commercial and industrial classes, and some the night schools. When they are not able to get lunch they give them a small lunch in the school cafeteria, which costs very little. I have seen these camps all over the country, both military and industrial, and I can tell the minister that the young men would rather be out of work than go to some of these camps and waste their future. They do not want the dole.