

*The Address—Mr. Manion*

hear from some men, coming from various sections of the country, interested in certain industries, who may feel that they have been benefited or hurt.

But the real charge against this government is that apparently it absolutely fails to realize Canadian conditions. Despite all the statements made by the Prime Minister prior to the election of 1935, some of which I shall quote, and which tended to show that apparently he understood conditions in Canada, the government he now heads has given no indication that it really understands Canadian conditions. There has been a decided lack of action towards rectifying these conditions and no indication that there has been any planned method through which rectification could be brought about. The right hon. gentleman has been following a sort of hit-and-miss policy. That fact is evidenced in the speech from the throne when we find that to-day, after almost four years in office, he considers it necessary, upon receiving the report of the commission on dominion-provincial relations, to call a national conference to discover what is wrong with Canada. To my mind the greatest charge which can be made against the government is that it is continually broadcasting the information that all is well in Canada when, in fact, all is not well.

I am not by any means a pessimist. In fact, speaking generally, I believe I may be classed as a pretty good optimist, but I do say that throughout Canada to-day there is unrest, discontent and disharmony to an extent which perhaps has never before existed. I see unemployment to the extent of hundreds of thousands—not 125,000 as was published in a statement released a few days ago by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers). It is true that he has said there are 125,000 people on relief. The unfortunate part of it is that the press pick up that figure and tell the country that there are only 125,000 unemployed in Canada. I have one such statement before me, and I could have brought many more. In making such a statement the Minister of Labour is not frank with the people, and I would point out that statements such as the one I have indicated should be corrected. It is not a fair deal. I do not impute motives, but I must say that such statements hoodwink many of the people. In one of the packages on my desk I have an item stating that there are only 125,000 unemployed. The information is published in that form when, as a matter of fact, the best information I can obtain from the statistics branch operated by the government is to the effect that last month there were 398,000 unemployed in Canada—not 125,000, but 398,000—plus any figure

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you may wish to add to include the youth who have never been employed. Partly because of a seasonal change there are 50,000 or 75,000 more unemployed to-day than there were last month.

The bureau of statistics estimate that there are 64,000 youth who have never been employed. For the youth congress in Toronto a gentleman named Woodsworth has made an estimate of something like 400,000. As I have stated, however, the figure given by the government bureau stands at 64,000, a most optimistic figure, and represents the number of young men who have never worked. So, if hon. members will add this 64,000 to 398,000, the official estimate, they will get a figure well over 450,000, a figure nearly four times the one given by the Minister of Labour.

I do not wish to misrepresent the position taken by the minister. He refers in the press release to "unemployed but fully employable persons on aid" in October—

Mr. ROGERS: On relief. They were the ones on relief.

Mr. MANION: I have explained that fully; I do not wish to misrepresent the minister's position. That is the number on relief. But the point I make is that that is not a fair type of statement to offer the people of Canada when actually there are 398,000. And you could add to that figure almost any additional number to include the young men in Canada who have never worked, a group which the youth congress estimated at 400,000.

It is almost impossible to get proper unemployment figures. That is a complaint which the right hon. gentleman has made against us, and at a later time I shall quote him. It was he who said that we should have something by way of registry. Where is the registry to-day? Yet he said four years ago that that was needed. Where is the present registry of unemployed? My secretary and I spent hours trying to get honest figures of unemployment because I do not wish to misrepresent anything. I suggest that if the Minister of Labour wishes to be completely frank with the people of Canada, he should in the future publish not only the number of unemployed on relief but also the number of unemployed in the country. We must remember there are tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands, of people in the country who are out of employment but will not go on relief if they can get along without it. I say therefore that we should avoid misrepresentation. No doubt the misrepresentation by the Minister of Labour was made unconsciously, but I suggest it should be made known that there are 398,000 unemployed, plus the number of unemployed