

cooperative, and understands its job thoroughly. I am not so sure about the office at Glace Bay. I would assume that the people supplied in this particular dispute would be supplied through the Glace Bay office. I am requesting the minister to check up on the matter.

An ultimatum was arrived at last Sunday, and a provision for an idle day was brought into effect. Next week, if it is not settled, there will be two idle days. A dispute of this kind could be settled by responsible authorities in ten minutes, simply by a telephone call. If the province will not act, then recognizing the fuel emergency and the repercussions of this dispute, the federal minister should take the bull by the horns and settle the matter for them.

Mr. HANSELL: We listened this afternoon to a speech by the Minister of Agriculture delivered in his characteristic form. I noticed, however, he took a good deal of credit to his government for what the people of Canada have done in the past few years. He rather deplored the fact that hon. members in the opposition were attempting to prove certain contentions by citing certain cases. All I wish to say in that respect is that nobody on the opposition side of the house will say that the people have not done a good job. No one on the opposition side of the house will say that the farmer has not done a good job in producing food. No one will criticize the people of Canada for the job they have done. But certainly it must be the duty of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition to point out certain weaknesses they think they have discovered in governmental administration. That is what we do when we rise in our places and bring certain matters to the attention of the government.

The minister went on to say that it was a great accomplishment for the national registration of a few years ago to be able to register several millions of people in just a few days. I do not consider that such a great accomplishment, so far as the administration is concerned. An order went out that a national registration was to be taken. We were under the stress, strain and duress of war. Of course all came out and registered. Surely there is no great accomplishment about that. We might as well say it is a great accomplishment when the whole nation goes home to lunch when the twelve o'clock whistle blows. One is almost equal to the other.

We want to know what purpose the national registration served, and what the results of it were in the years since it was taken. In fact, I wonder if it is not time we were having another national registration, to find out

[Mr. Gillis.]

exactly where we are in respect of our manpower situation. I am not going to advocate that, but I am certain that the last national registration did not fulfil the purpose the Canadian people expected it would fulfil.

We are not disputing the fact that the people of Canada have done a great job. But some of us feel that a certain portion of our people are not keeping step with those who are doing a great job. I say that after referring to some figures brought down in the house some days ago, figures which the editors of the *Ottawa Journal* have taken time to consider, and which they have made the basis of an editorial entitled "Five Hundred Thousand Missing Men." The figures look perfectly correct, so far as I can see. It is pointed out that notices have been sent out to 988,475 men and that out of that number only 608,642 reported for examination, leaving 379,833 unaccounted for.

Mr. MARTIN: That was explained, though.

Mr. HANSELL: Perhaps it was; I do not know.

Mr. MARTIN: The minister did so last night.

Mr. HANSELL: Perhaps it is another case of juggling around with figures. The fact remains that—

Mr. MITCHELL: Does the hon. member insinuate that the minister has juggled figures, or that the juggling was done by the newspaper editorial writer?

Mr. HANSELL: Either one or the other. This afternoon the Minister of Agriculture said he was getting sick and tired of listening to figures this way and figures that way. Then he attempted to give some figures. The figures I have before me were compiled by the *Ottawa Journal*. They were brought down by the minister, and reference is made to them in this newspaper.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am not responsible for what the editor of the *Ottawa Journal* did with figures brought down in the house. I have not yet reached the stage where I try to mislead the house; and I do not juggle figures.

Mr. HANSELL: I am not accusing the minister of juggling figures. The minister's figures may be correct; I do not know. I know when one person talks figures and another person talks figures the old adage may be true that figures do not lie, but liars figure. I am not accusing anyone. I make the simple statement that I have some figures before me. And regardless of whether the figures in the *Journal* are 100 per cent accurate, the fact remains that they cannot be depreciated to any great extent, no matter how we