

lived in the city of Guelph. His mother was dead; his father was on relief. He attended the technical school, and among the subjects he qualified in was welding. Leaving school with his diploma he got seven months work in one of the industries there. Then the industry told him that they had lost a great deal of business through competition, and they laid him off. He then went to Sarnia to seek a job, having been told that there was welding to be done there, but he could get no work to do, so he begged his meals and hitch-hiked back to Toronto, where one industry, which was almost shut down, told him they hoped to get some business and suggested that he come back in three weeks when they might have some welding work for him to do. Boats were being repaired at Port Dalhousie, involving considerable welding, so he thumbed his way to Port Dalhousie, and that is how he happened to come to my home, cold and hungry.

Parallel with that I received a letter just a few days ago from a young man whose family I am well acquainted with, and who is attending the central technical school in Toronto. He is specializing in welding there and expects to graduate this summer. He wrote asking me if I knew of any place to which he could direct his attention in order to get a job after he graduated. Am I to tell him the story of the young man from Guelph who tramped and hitch-hiked all over this country trying to get a job at welding? The whole difficulty is that secondary industry is throttled and cannot possibly provide jobs for these young men with special training. You do not have to leave Ottawa to find that out. I suppose quite a number of members of the house saw the article in the morning edition of the *Journal* of last Friday, from which I quote:

Homeless wanderers coming from the eastern-most reaches of the dominion and the prairie provinces sleep with down-and-outers from Montreal and Toronto.

"We've never had a winter like it," declared the desk sergeant. Many of the men had been attracted to northern Ontario by reports of mining activity there, but found no work.

Heaviest night the police doss-house has had this winter was when twenty-nine received the privileges of the lock-up. On Sunday night last, coldest of the winter to date, nineteen were admitted.

Unemployment needs the earnest consideration of this house and this government.

May I say just a word about housing, which dovetails very closely into the unemployment situation. I would refer to the

[Mr. Lockhart.]

words of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning), to be found at page 3898 of *Hansard* of 1938:

I know of no better means of expanding employment in Canada to-day than by stimulating building activity. The construction industry is the most important of our capital or durable goods industries. . . .

I believe that the minister knows the situation, and is fully conscious that to a large extent the unemployment problem can be solved if we can re-employ the tens of thousands who follow the construction industry. Not only is it true that labour of one kind and another constitutes approximately fifty per cent of the cost of construction, but when we follow through we find that in the production of materials which go to make up construction, labour comprises perhaps another thirty per cent. The minister outlined the situation very clearly, referring to—

—the magnitude of the dollar value of the products of the construction industry in normal times;

He went on to express in his own good language what that meant to the country, and remarked later on:

The increase of residential contracts . . . was very largely attributable to the stimulus provided by the Dominion Housing Act and the home improvement plan.

With that I partly agree. The minister will recall that I asked him some questions in this house last year as to what extent he believed that the lending institutions would cooperate. I drew attention to the fact that in connection with the building of workingmen's homes, the need for which is so evident at this time, and was at that time, men could not and do not consider it practicable to erect small homes on uptown streets where the assessment commissioner takes his pound of flesh. In urban centres workingmen prefer, and rightly so, to build near the outskirts of their city or town, and they often choose acre or half-acre plots along highways or improved roads, perhaps just at the very border of the city or town limits. The urgent need is to construct workingmen's homes on lots such as those to which I refer; this is apparent to those interested in the building industry. At the present moment I have in mind about ten homes which could be erected this spring if someone could influence the lending institutions to give reasonable loans in such cases. I hear an hon. member say, "hear, hear." I should like to take a straw vote of the men in this house who know something about this problem. Last year the minister informed us that he had every assurance that the