

*Proposed Committee on Unemployment*

I definitely suggest that those men who volunteer to take that sort of training should naturally receive the same pay as the men in the reserve army. There should be no question of men not getting adequate pay. The pay of the reserve army and that of the regular forces is the same.

As I said, I have mentioned this idea to several people from time to time. I was rather surprised to find an editorial appearing in the *Cowichan Leader*, a weekly paper whose circulation is almost entirely in the forest area of the Cowichan valley. There are probably more lumber camps there than anywhere else in British Columbia. This editorial, which is dated February 4 of this year, is written with regard to two letters which correspondents had sent to the paper. It starts off in this way:

Two readers have this week contributed excellent ideas, both of which contain the seeds of progress for sowing in widely-separated fields.

There is no need for me to discuss the first question because it is not pertinent to this debate. The editorial continues:

The second idea comes from Caycuse camp, Cowichan lake, and like the first, is probably borne of the lengthy period of enforced idleness for loggers and camp staffs generally.

Then it goes on to say this:

Our correspondent suggests a system of reserve army training during the lay-off period.

This is a suggestion coming from a correspondent in a lumber camp. The editorial continues:

"Because of the type of work the men are accustomed to—falling, bucking, road and bridge construction, operating heavy machinery and vehicles—they would be best suited as Royal Canadian Engineer reserves," he writes.

The editorial continues:

He lays down several conditions for his plan. The defence department would send instructors to the camps. The course of lectures would have to be attractive enough to hold the single men in the camps. The pay for attending the course would have to exceed unemployment insurance benefits. Arrangements would be made to use company bunkhouses and cookhouses.

At present there are reported to be some 15,000 men idle on Vancouver island alone, the great majority owing to the heavy snow.

That is snow in the hills which prevented logging operations.

There is thus certainly a golden opportunity for instruction of some kind to be given to many of these men.

I just throw out that suggestion along with others I have made in these remarks. May I repeat them. I suggest that great care should be exercised in the releasing of men from the regular forces at a time when there is considerable unemployment. If possible, steps should be taken to see that large numbers of

[Mr. Pearkes.]

men—and several hundreds are being discharged every month; in fact I think I would be safe in saying that the number runs into thousands in some months—are not discharged from the forces at such a time. When I refer to men being discharged from the forces, I refer not to men being thrown out but to men who go out voluntarily, men who have served their time and who voluntarily go out. That is my first suggestion.

My second suggestion is that consideration be given to providing some special form of unemployment insurance for fishermen, something which cannot be considered as a subsidy to these fishermen but which will take care of seasonal unemployment which is forced upon them owing to conservation measures.

My third suggestion is that consideration should be given to the possibility of reviving a fishermen's reserve in the Royal Canadian Navy, or some other form of reserve training which would appeal to the fishermen.

My fourth suggestion is that consideration should be given to providing these young men from the logging camps with an opportunity to do some military service which would be useful to them in their own profession and would also assist to build up the reserves which, if required, will need men who are well trained. There will be little time for the training of these men if we are ever faced with another war. They will be urgently required to back up our active forces. I suggest that an opportunity for that training should be given them without too much emphasis being placed upon the necessity for joining units of the reserve forces. I have made these suggestions because it is my opinion that this situation may develop and become extremely grave. I am concerned for the welfare of our young Canadians who may find themselves out of jobs. I feel that this question of trying to find a solution for the unemployment problem is one that transcends party considerations.

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that we have had this opportunity to fully discuss this matter of unemployment. First of all, I am happy because it has led to a good discussion and to the smoking out, if we might call it that, of the intentions of the government if and when Canada should be faced with a period of unemployment.

As many of us have suspected for many years now, the government has no plan. It has consistently informed the people they can rest assured that when the time comes for action they will not be disappointed because they placed their confidence in the Liberal party. I think it has been made very clear over the past two days that the