

dominates the whole world. How can one possibly find a more complete condemnation of the method of distribution which we now use? Where can one find more potent evidence that we should set our national research council to work learning how we can distribute the goods which we produce without such extravagant measures as President Roosevelt was meditating when he made the statement?

In my judgment the bill—and I speak with all deference to the minister, a man for whom I have the highest esteem—is simply utterly inadequate. If you ask me what we Social Crediters think of the principle of the bill, there it is. It provides for more productive science discoveries, but no social science discoveries whatsoever.

How serious is the need of a new system of distribution in Canada? It can be shown by a letter which was written to me on September 25, 1945, by Mr. J. L. Forsyth, statistician of the dominion bureau of statistics, dealing with the wage rates prevailing in Canada in the years 1940 to 1941. This letter shows up the kind of problem which, above all others, the Canadian government should, in my judgment, be concerned with. To-day we have strikes in every direction, trouble and unhappiness. What is the matter? Surely we should be examining into that problem, and it looks to me as though the national research council ought to be the body charged with the responsibility of so doing. May I read Mr. Forsyth's letter? It is as follows:

Further to our telephone conversation of this morning regarding the percentage of wage-earners receiving various amounts of income.

The percentage of wage-earners earning less than \$450 for the twelve months' period prior to date of the census, June 2, 1941, was 32.9 per cent; 28.7 per cent of the wage-earners reported earnings between \$450 and \$949; 29.9 per cent earned between \$950 and \$1,949, and 6.8 per cent earned \$1,950 and over. 1.7 per cent of the wage-earners did not state the amount of earnings for the year.

For your information I am enclosing herewith census bulletins showing the earnings of wage-earners by occupation and the earnings and employment of wage-earners for the various census divisions or counties as well as a number of urban centres in Canada. The above statistics are taken from these bulletins.

Yours very truly,

J. L. Forsyth,
Statistician.

In reviewing the letter we notice the following salient facts: 32.9 per cent of the Canadian wage-earners received in the year prior to June, 1941, less than \$450 a year. I submit this simple question to hon. members: Do you suppose that any person in Canada should be obliged to work for an income as low as that? Yet apparently nobody knows what

to do to change that tragic situation except by strikes. Then 28.7 per cent of the wage-earners earned between \$450 and \$949. This means that 61.6 per cent of the wage-earners of Canada received less than \$950 a year, during a time when in order to support a family in decency and with the necessities of health they should have received \$1,500 a year. If you want a problem for the national research council to sink its teeth into there you have it; how to adjust that grotesque, fantastic imbalance in our Canadian way of life. And 91.5 per cent of all the wage-earners in Canada received less than \$1,950 a year. I do not believe that any family in Canada, if it has one or two children, ought to be called on to live on less than \$2,000 a year. What are we going to do about it? There is the problem. I think I have said enough in a general way.

Mr. GRAYDON: Hear, hear.

Mr. BLACKMORE: We have "hear, hear" from the helpless creatures who have no idea what to do about the situation and who are quite contented to rest and leave it as it is. That is a pathetic situation, and yet they call themselves progressive. If you need anything to point to the complete irony of the situation there you have it.

This bill reflects upon the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mackenzie King). While we were discussing the atomic bomb question last year he said, as reported at page 3638 of *Hansard* of December 17, 1945:

We should, by every means in our power, support and strengthen every agency of international cooperation and understanding which can help to make the world community a reality.

I submit that it is utterly impossible for Canada to do to-day what the Prime Minister said we ought to do, so long as we depend entirely upon international trade as a mechanism for the distribution of goods. All we are doing at the present time is depending upon international trade as a mechanism for distribution. Under the circumstances failure to make provision for the submission of this problem to the research council is a reflection upon the membership of the house, and especially upon the government.

This bill could have offered means of supporting the ideals behind the Atlantic charter, but it fails to do so. In fact, if this is all the government has to offer for the solution of our problems—and I presume it is—it betrays the Atlantic charter.

I would assume that all hon. members have received copies of this excellent booklet "Into the Atomic Age", which has been distributed