

more. The consumption is actually growing fantastically due to the rising standard of living and the population explosion. The textile industry is facing a very large problem to be able to supply the future demand of the world markets. That is the reason why we believe that a new system must be introduced. The old system is out. It is not capable of further improvements.

Senator Blois: As far as the United States and Canada are concerned it would put a great many people out of work if they all adopted your system, thousands of people?

The Chairman: That would depend, of course, on the increase of demand both at home and abroad as a result of reduced costs.

Senator Blois: I can see that, but I am talking about directly.

The Chairman: For the same amount of production you mean?

Senator Blois: Yes, many, many people.

The Chairman: You said a moment ago that this would economize on labour.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: To increase productivity.

Senator Blois: Oh, yes, I agree with that.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: Increased productivity always leads to vast economic development. If we have lower productivity, we keep something which is stagnant.

Senator Blois: Take some of the cotton spinners in the province of Quebec. With your type of machine, as I understand it, the production for one unit of yours would be equal to perhaps 15 to 20 units that they are at present using. So that would cut out a great deal of labour.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: No, that is one point I want to make. You see, a spinning mill of the present time which has, let us say a capacity of opening fibres, in our case if it has let us say 10,000 pounds of opening capacity it can produce 20,000 pounds of yarn. With the present process it would only produce 10,000. So the logical thing would be to apply our machines, not to reduce the labour force but to increase the productivity. We would put in these machines to increase the output of the factory without removing anybody from it.

Senator Blois: Yes, but we do not have the capacity to use it either here or in the United States.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: I would disagree here, if I may, because in fact 50 per cent of the production in Canada is covered by import today. It is a tremendous field to eliminate many, many imports or, conversely, improve our export position in fine items. We could possibly not compete maybe with some of the imports, but we could increase our export in other items made by this process. So generally I rather think it will contribute more to increase employment than decreasing it, besides creating a new industry for making the machines. The machines will also have to be built by labour.

Senator Blois: Yes, but you are going to replace so many machines that have already been made by labour. I am not going to argue about that, it has no particular bearing on this, but I just fail to follow your argument altogether. You make one machine and say it is fairly simple and it would probably take, I think you said 25 men working, or something?

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: No.

Senator Blois: I understood you to say a small number of men. If you take the number of men who are employed in making the spinning and carding machinery in the United States, Great Britain, or other parts of Europe where that type of machinery is made, a tremendous number of men are used for that type of work.

The Chairman: I suppose we have no choice now that the invention has been made. If the invention is applied in other countries and not in Canada it will put more people out of work.

Senator Blois: That is right, it would help out the Indians and the underdeveloped countries.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: The invention of the loom or of the mechanical system has not decreased, as was previously thought, the need for workers, on the contrary it has increased it considerably.

Senator Blois: It eased up a lot from when the women had to use the spinning wheel to make the garments.

Mr. E. Bobkowitz: In spite of this they have increased considerably.

Senator Phillips (Prince): If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct a couple of questions to Mr. Ross of Canada. When the