

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, sir. This is why the fathers cannot build houses to shelter their children, who were unable to pay their rent in the cities. They said, "Well, we have no money left. We cannot sell our products. We are sorry you have to live in slums and we are sorry you must come, but we cannot afford to pay high rents for you in the cities." This is strictly relevant to the housing scheme. Take the farmer's son who left the old homestead in times of prosperity, when the Liberal government was in power, and looked for a job as a mechanic. As soon as he was promised a better job by the right hon. leader of the government—I mean the government, which will not last long, thank God—he thought of better times. But, sir, all that fell down; he was set back and then he lost his job and now the father has to look after him and his family. If we build wonderful apartment houses such as they have in Vienna, in Russia, and in Germany, and the men who are supposed to live there cannot find jobs, what is the advantage in building these houses for the workmen?

I am strongly in favour of the clearance of slums; I am in favour of a good housing scheme, but the best housing scheme we can have is one that will be looked after by the private individual who is interested in receiving full value for the money he spends, and one which gives no chance to grafters who are after contracts in order to put up cardboard houses in the cities and charge the government the prices of stone walls. That has happened before. What will happen under this scheme? We will have flat contracts, and the people will be bled.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is simply whether it is advisable to formulate a housing scheme. The bill is not now being discussed.

Mr. POULIOT: I am discussing the principle of the matter which is contained in this resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: The principle of the bill is not even under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: I was not discussing the bill. How can a labouring man pay rent of \$25 a month when he does not work? What has become of the promise of the right hon. gentleman to give work to everyone? He said, "I will give you not charity but work." Where is it? He says he has fulfilled all his promises. If there are slums in the cities it is because men who had work in 1930 are unemployed now, and they cannot look after the repairs to the houses in which they live. This is the principal reason for the slums in the cities; this is why the houses are not

painted as they should be, and are not looked after. This is why there are broken windows and so on.

Sir, it is a very sad thing. How will this money be paid? The right hon. member for Argenteuil mentioned—perhaps it was a slip—the sum of \$10,000,000. What are we to spend that for? That \$10,000,000 will be spent to feed parasites on that commission. Why have the government decided on a policy of housing before knowing the number of unemployed in each building trade in the Canadian cities and municipalities from coast to coast? The information has been given by a private member, but may I ask the right hon. member for Argenteuil how many plumbers, how many carpenters, how many bricklayers, how many joiners and how many painters in the city of Halifax will find work under this scheme? How many will be looked after? Then we come to that proud city in New Brunswick, the native province of the right hon. Prime Minister; I refer to the city of Saint John, and I would ask the same information in connection with that city. I would ask the same information in connection with every city in the nine provinces of Canada. The government did not know, until they were told by a private member, the occupations of the unemployed of this country, but surely now they must be in a position to tell this committee how many men they will look after in the building trades? Can they answer? No, sir, they cannot. Why? Because theirs is a half baked policy; that is all there is to it. It is a policy of mirage—m-i-r-a-g-e—and fake. Then they will say to the people, "Look at the skyscrapers we have built." To shelter all the unemployed who have lost their jobs since 1930 we would have to have a skyscraper as high as Jacob's ladder. What a skyscraper would be needed to shelter all the unemployed who have lost their jobs because of the policy of this government! Do hon. members think for one moment that I will take the trouble to read and to discuss the bill arising from this resolution, and to say here must be a comma and here must be a period and here must be a semicolon? I do not believe in this policy, and I make that statement once and for all. I am against all those policies, because I have had an opportunity to study much of the legislation that has been passed. It is half baked, it is useless; the country is going to the dogs and it is time to stop it.

Hon. members on this side have made this suggestion to the government: Why not publish the telephone directories of every city in Canada in the statute books, so that we