

came from the other side of the Atlantic, whether from the British Isles or the Continent, were sons of the soil. Possibly a large proportion of them were, but what proportion of young men and women, artisans mainly, desired to try to earn a living on the farm? I wonder whether we should not make some effort to solve our unemployment problem by directing back to the land at least those who were born and raised on the farm. I am quite sure there are thousands of them. I think it is quite evident that even if there is a return of general prosperity and the wheels of industry are running full time it will be very difficult to find employment for all the people now on relief. Their numbers have been increased from year to year since 1930 by the younger people growing up and leaving the schools and colleges. This explains why, though the number of employed persons throughout Canada has been increasing, the number of unemployed has not diminished. So one of the duties of that commission should be to apply itself to the solution of unemployment by placing on the land persons drawn from the ranks of the unemployed.

In years gone by we have spent large sums of money on transporting immigrants from Europe to the Canadian West. A nation-wide inquiry into the whole situation might reveal certain parts of Canada where some of those at present unemployed would be welcomed. Of course the provinces, and the municipalities as well, would have a voice in the matter. The idea would be to try to make sure that these people would succeed when they were placed. One of the things that haunt me constantly is the question where our surplus population, at present unemployed, is to be placed as the years go by.

My right honourable friend has spoken of the camps mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. He is not quite satisfied with the general statement that appears in the Speech under that head. I would draw his attention to the fact that while those camps have been under the direction of the Department of National Defence, it is proper that they should be under the Department of Labour. That is the Department which will be most active in trying to give work to the men in those camps, and from the knowledge I have of the activities of the present Minister of Labour, who has explored the whole field, and who may at this moment have reached some interesting conclusions, I am sure that when the policy of the Government is enunciated it will be found that the transfer of those camps has been a good move.

My right honourable friend has made light of the reference in the Speech from the

Throne to the closing of a mill in the city of Sherbrooke. I would suggest that he read again that part of the Speech. If he does so he will find that the question involved goes far beyond the closing of a mill. He told us that he had not followed to any extent the discussions which took place on the hustings and over the air during the last election. Had he done so he would know that the present Prime Minister had in hand circulars that were distributed in some industrial towns informing employees that if the Liberal party came into power the industries or mills in those towns would be closed. Although, like my honourable friend, I did not follow the discussions daily, I know that the present Prime Minister made the statement that any mill or industry that was closed by reason of the fact that a Liberal Government came into power would be given an opportunity to justify its action, and that he would go deeply into the whole question of competition in domestic or foreign trade. That is what actuated the Prime Minister in suggesting to his Cabinet that such an inquiry should take place.

My right honourable friend has spoken of the agreement between Canada and the United States. He has not examined very deeply the convention laid on the Table of the House, but he has suggested that in such an important matter hasty action is dangerous. I would point out that for a considerable time the late Government studied the situation. It must have gathered considerable data in order to open negotiations with the United States. Just a few weeks before the election the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett gave out a statement in which he explained that substantial efforts had been made at Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty whereby some seven hundred items of our own tariff stood to be affected. Of course we have not the details of that proposal. Not having seen it, I cannot compare its terms with those of the present convention. The statement of the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett was supported by correspondence between the Minister for Canada at Washington and Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State. I suppose that later on we shall have the terms of the two proposals placed before us here, and we shall then be able to see in what respects they differ.

I would simply suggest to this Chamber that perhaps the matter was approached by the present Government from a somewhat different angle, because of the divergent views of the two parties on economic questions. No