

they now live. If he accepts, it may mean, without government help, the uprooting and breaking up of both the home and the family. This will bring about grave social as well as economic problems.

Again, the types of work being offered often fail to fit the labour available. Unskilled factory workers cannot do skilled construction work. Sedentary workers and women cannot fill the demand for heavy labour.

Last and most important is the difference in pay between war work and the work now being offered. The main lay-offs have been in shipyards, where the average weekly wage was \$40.48; aircraft, weekly wage, \$37.50; chemicals, weekly wage, \$34.37; automotive industry, weekly wage, \$40.10. But the main permanent jobs being offered now are in textiles, weekly wage, \$23.90 including overtime; hosiery and knit goods, weekly wage, \$21.34; retail trades, weekly wage, \$24.55; and so-called service industries, weekly wage, \$19.61.

These figures are from the dominion bureau of statistics report on the employment situation for June, 1945; thus they may be taken as reliable.

Workers then can draw scant comfort from statements that there are more jobs available than persons to fill them. Families whose incomes have dropped by one-third and even by one-half cannot buy shelter and food at to-day's prices, and so we demand of the government that it make good its promises; and pending the adoption of a more comprehensive plan than we see placed before the country or foreshadowed in the house, we suggest the following:

First, that there be a lay-off or severance pay to provide \$25 a week for all displaced workers until they are reemployed.

Second, that discharged veterans be paid full pay and allowances until reinstatement in civilian life, with the same minimum of \$25 a week—and I shall deal with that more fully in a minute.

Third, that to maintain the purchasing power of Canadian farmers, floor prices for agriculture be extended and continued.

Fourth, that we have legislation to protect workers' and farmers' equities in their homes and to prevent evictions and foreclosures. I think that is most important because many war workers, owing to the housing situation, had to buy houses and make a down payment, and they did so thinking that their wages would enable them to continue their monthly, quarterly or yearly payments. Today they find themselves out of work and are in danger of losing these homes unless adequate protection is given them.

Fifth, that immediate action be taken to raise wages in industries frozen at substandard levels.

Sixth, an extensive public low-rental housing programme which will provide both large-scale employment and urgently needed homes. The present policy of reliance on private enterprise will produce neither jobs nor homes in adequate numbers.

Other public projects which the government should undertake should be the construction of schools, hospitals, roads, rural electrification, irrigation and the like, and the reconversion of government-owned war plants under public ownership to open up new opportunities of employment.

This country requires a really planned programme of reconversion. At present the disposal of Canada's one billion dollar's worth of capital assets is on a completely unplanned basis. The white paper tabled last session was not a plan but merely a statement of objectives and not of methods. Any plan should provide for the welfare of workers affected by cutbacks and the cancellation of war orders and for the public and cooperative operation of valuable plants to meet peace-time needs. Instead of this, ministers simply repeat that there are plenty of jobs, which is cold comfort for those who, for various reasons, cannot find suitable work at wages sufficient to meet the obligations they have undertaken.

But equal to this failure to plan for suitable employment for war workers and returned veterans is the failure to make effective plans for housing. On this point the speech reveals no new plans for the future. On the contrary, it expresses satisfaction with the present plans, stating that the "plans already in operation provide for the expansion of home construction to keep pace with the increases in the output of building material."

The housing need, we are told, is five hundred thousand new homes—new homes now—and then building for a period of years at the rate of fifty thousand more each year. These are minimum figures. Now what has the government done to date? True, we have passed several acts of parliament, but acts of parliament will not provide houses. We expected that limited dividend corporations would be formed under the provisions of the National Housing Act, but so far, as far as I can learn, none have been organized. Wartime Housing, I believe, is building ten thousand inadequate houses, and the veterans' land administration only three thousand houses. Besides this, there has been a policy of going cap in hand to the insurance companies offering them a government-guaranteed return and permitting a de-