

*Employment Commission*

Mr. MacINNIS: There is no doubt that the statement made by the Minister of Finance is quite true. There is a limit to our taking from some of us to give to all of us.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacINNIS: That is what it is because fifteen per cent of the people of Canada have nothing that you can take from them.

Mr. DUNNING: Nonsense; it is being taken from them every day in the form of taxation.

Mr. MacINNIS: You cannot tax the 1,500,000 people you are going to deal with by this unemployment measure.

Mr. DUNNING: They pay taxes every day.

Mr. MacINNIS: But they are paying taxes only out of what you first pay them. But there is no limit to the use which the people of Canada can make of the resources of Canada to provide food, clothing and shelter for themselves. That is all we are asking the government to do. What it ought to do is to organize the people in the production of food, clothing and shelter so that we should not be concerned with borrowing money from somebody else for the purpose. The whole trouble lies in the fact that we have left our means of production in the hands of a few, and after we have produced we have to go hat in hand to these few and ask for a little share of what we have produced.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In order that we may make some progress towards a solution of the problem, may I ask the hon. gentleman whether he suggests that this parliament—I confine it to this parliament—should begin to take over some of the industries of the country? If so, does he propose that we should take them over arbitrarily or pay for them?

Mr. MacINNIS: The first question is, do I suggest that the government of this country should take over the industries?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This parliament.

Mr. MacINNIS: I am not concerned particularly with what the government will do; I am not outlining this government's policy; it is the government's policy. But I say that the first thing the government of a country should consider is this: What should be the purpose of the industries of a country? Is the purpose of industry to produce the things that the people need? If that be so, then the government should say to the owners of

[Mr. Dunning.]

industry: It is up to you to operate your industry to produce these things, and if you don't we will. How you will take the industries over is not of great importance. When you required the people of the country to protect its interests on the battlefields of Flanders you took hundreds of thousands of the people and did not guarantee that they would return, and you have not looked after some of them well since. When you deal with the industrial problem, with respect to the needs of the people, on the same basis as you dealt with the people in time of war, you will have the Canadian people behind you in whatever action you take.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: So that we may move along practical lines, what particular group of industries does the hon. gentleman recommend that the government should begin with? What are they to produce? What are we to tell them to produce?

Mr. MacINNIS: As I said before, I am not paid for advising this government; that is a matter for the government itself to find out. If I were a member of the government I would have suggestions to make in that regard. But first of all the government should inquire what the people who are in distress to-day need, and how those needs will be met.

Mr. ROGERS: The hon. gentleman speaks of inquiring as to what the people need. Does he mean to say that this country within itself must produce all that the people need?

Mr. MacINNIS: No, certainly not. We have a surplus of a great many things in this country—

Mr. ROGERS: What will you do with them?

Mr. MacINNIS: We would exchange them for the surpluses of other countries.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacINNIS: You do not have to accept all this; it is merely my opinion. We could exchange our surplus for the surplus products of other countries, the things they have too much of. But the point is this: There is no reason in the world why people in Canada who want for bread should not have it, because we have enough wheat. There is no reason why they should need houses, because we have enough material to build houses. There is no reason why they should want for many things. A young man of twenty-five came into my office to-day. He had come to Ottawa, having got a job, but he had nothing to keep him until pay-day, so he was obliged to go every